MONDAY
October 23, 2023

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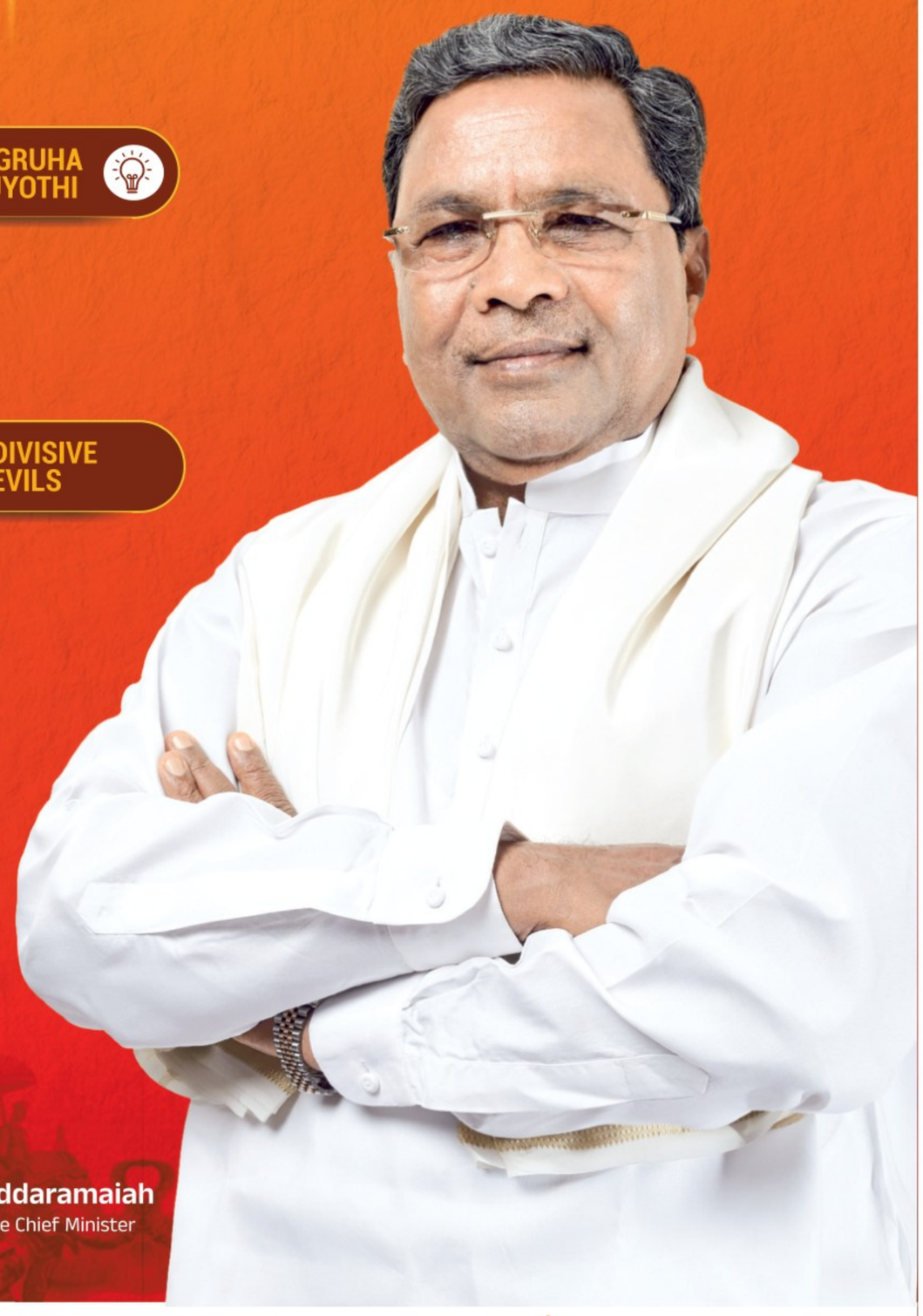

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TELANGANA POLL

BJP releases first list of 52 candidates

SOUTH » PAGE 9

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Refugee crisis animates Mizoram contest

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'CASH FOR QUERY' ROW

Mahua has clarified stance: Trinamool

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Wars have stifled Gazan life

Repeated attacks have hit the enclave; death toll is at record levels

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FIVE IN A ROW

Shami, Kohli shine as India keeps slate clean

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

No festive cheer for tomato growers in State

BENGALURU
After experiencing record highs, even the beginning of festivities has not brought any relief for tomato growers as the current price for a box of tomato is just ₹50 to ₹120 at the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee.

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Kodagu's ecosystem cries for attention

KODAGU
The dwindling storage in Karnataka's Cauvery basin reservoirs owing to drought prevailing in the State has caused concerns in the downstream areas. » Page 6

THE HINDU
There will be no issue of THE HINDU on October 24, 2023 as **Ayudha Pooja** is a holiday. Readers can access the online edition at: **www.thehindu.com**

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 20

Israel pounds Gaza as a humanitarian crisis unfolds in hospitals

Though trucks with fuel enter enclave, lives of 120 babies on incubators are at risk as power generators run dry; Hamas says 80 killed in air strikes

Agence France-Presse
RAFAH

A 17-truck aid convoy entered Gaza from Egypt on Sunday even as Israeli warplanes struck targets across the Palestinian enclave overnight and into Sunday, and two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants, triggering fears of an escalation of conflict. Hamas said overnight raids killed at least 80 people and destroyed more than 30 houses.

Six trucks with fuel to power generators at two hospitals crossed from Egypt, the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said. UNICEF warned that the lives of at least 120 newborn babies on incubators in hospitals are at risk as fuel stocks run out.

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Palestinian emergency services and local citizens search for victims in buildings destroyed in Khan Younis, on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

India sends relief goods to civilian population

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday became the latest country to rush help to the civilian population of the Gaza Strip. The relief material was delivered to the Egyptian Red Crescent at the El-Arish airbase of Egypt, located close to the Gaza border.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

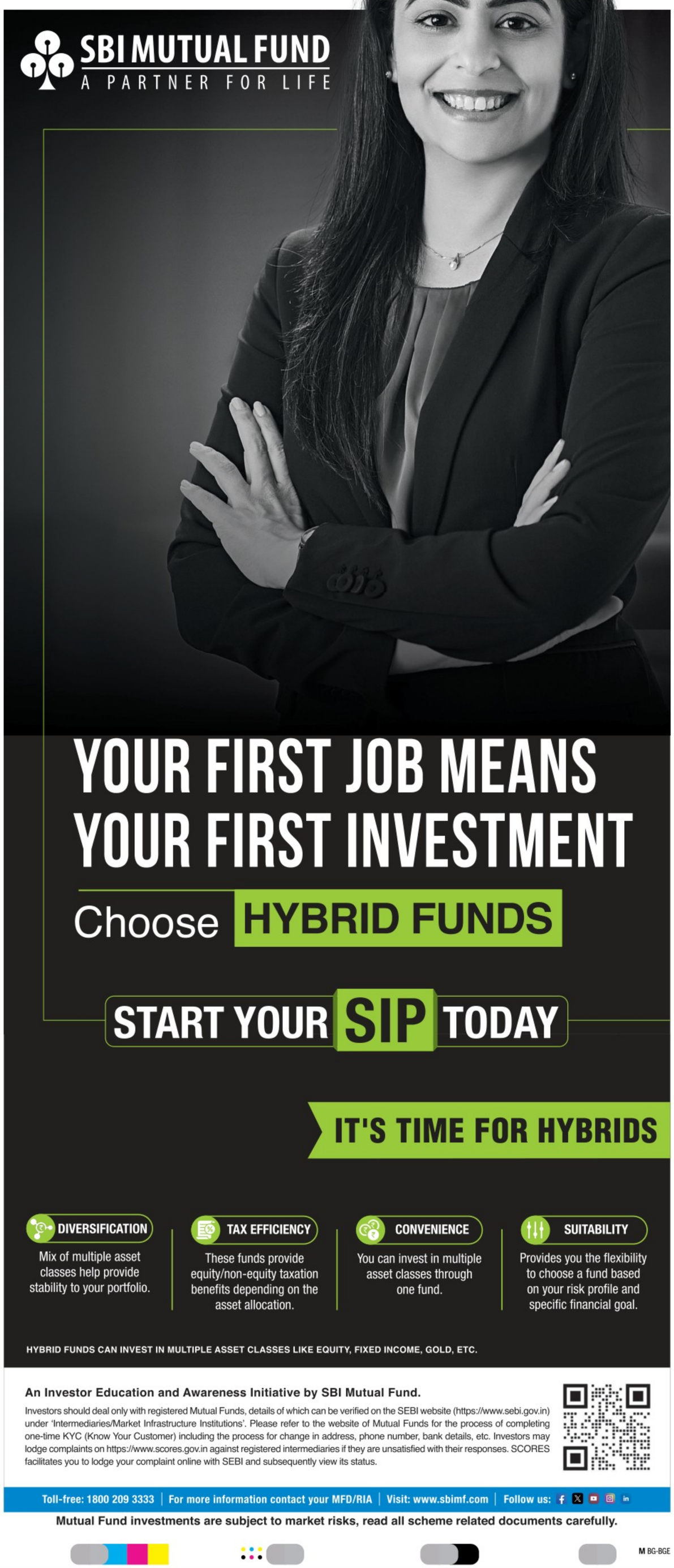
Using officials as govt.'s *pracharaks* wrong: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, objecting to a recent decision taken by the Union government to depute senior bureaucrats to all districts in the country as *Rath Prabharis* to propagate the government's development initiatives.

Mr. Kharge said the Centre's move is gross misuse of government machinery to serve the interests of the BJP.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12



Canada's actions are in violation of Vienna Convention, says Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Canada's inability to provide safety and security to Indian diplomats challenges the "most fundamental aspect" of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday. Mr. Jaishankar's remarks at an event here came two days after Canada withdrew 41 of its diplomats from India and "paused" walk-in services at its consulates in Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh, affecting Canadian visa facilities for Indians.

In the context of the withdrawal of Canadian diplomats from India, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly had accused New Delhi of violating the Vienna Convention. "A unilateral revocation of diplomatic privileges and immunities is contrary to international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations," she said on October 19. Her remarks were followed up by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who accused India of violating a "very basic principle of diplomacy".

Indian missions in Canada stopped issuing visas in September, but Mr. Jaishankar said that India would like to resume visa services if the working conditions for Indian diplomats improved in Canada.

"My hope, my expectation is that the situation would improve in the sense that our people would have greater confidence in being able to do their basic duty as diplomats. Because ensuring safety and security of diplomats is the most fundamental aspect of the Vienna Convention," he said.

> Ensuring safety and security of diplomats is the most fundamental aspect of the Vienna Convention. And right now, that is what has in many ways been challenged in Canada
>
> **S. JAISHANKAR**
> External Affairs Minister

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

PPF returns 41 bps behind formula rates

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Returns on the Public Provident Fund (PPF), frozen at 7.1% since April 2020, should have been pegged at 7.51% for this quarter as per the formula-based rates regime for small savings schemes adopted in 2016, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) calculations showed.

The government has raised the rates offered for most small savings instruments (SSIs) in the range of 40 basis points (bps) to 150 bps over the past five quarters. "With these revisions, the actual interest rates on most SSIs are now better aligned with the formula-based rates," the RBI noted in its monetary policy report for October.

However, two small savings schemes' returns are still out of sync with the formula. The PPF rate now trails the formula-based rate by 41 bps.

For recurring deposit (RD) accounts, whose returns were raised to 6.7% for this quarter, the formula-based rate is higher at 6.91%.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Grand finale of Mysuru Dasara tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Mysuru is all set for the grand Dasara finale amidst hundreds of tourists descending on the city to witness the spectacle that unfolds on Tuesday.

The celebrations began on October 15 atop Chamundi Hills, and the city is now gearing up for the conclusion of the ten-day-long festivities.

The cynosure of all eyes is the golden howdah that will be carried by lead elephant Abhimanyu during Jamboo Savari.

Abhimanyu and 13 other elephants will be the highlight of the procession that begins from the palace and ends at Bannimantap grounds, passing through the 5-km long Raja Marga.

This year, 49 tableaux will be part of the procession from across the State. Among them is one on the guarantee schemes that were launched by the Congress government and another one on the Somanathapura temple, which recently bagged the world heritage tag.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

One of my better hundreds purely on the conditions out there: Klaasen

'This group has been playing good cricket for the last three years now, and we've been maturing nicely; it's our time to really try to make a big statement for the world that South Africans are very good under pressure'

A breather: The scorching heat meant that Klaasen had to battle exhaustion en route his match-swinging century against England in Mumbai on Saturday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shayan Acharya

Heinrich Klaasen batted for nearly a couple of hours – battling hot and humid conditions – and eventually went on to score his fourth century in ODI cricket.

But then, it wasn't easy. As much as he dominated the England bowlers in South Africa's marquee World Cup fixture at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday, Klaasen looked quite knackered at the end, with the temperature soaring upto 35 degrees.

"It's like just breathing in hot air and every time you try to run, it's just sapping more and more energy and then at the end of the day, your body just doesn't want to work with you anymore," Klaasen said.

"It's just like almost running in a sauna for the whole innings which is what we obviously prepared for and we're used to these conditions, but it still takes a lot out of the body."

Klaasen and Marco Jansen's blitzkrieg in the last 10 overs meant South Africa put on 399 for seven, the highest ever ODI total against England and the second-highest at the venue. But for that to happen, Klaasen had 'to dig really, really deep there'. He did not have any energy left.

An honour

"Obviously, it's an honour for us to play for our country. And Marco also played a big part in that. He told me that he's got me and that I'm not allowed to walk off the field if I don't score 100. And I told him, but I can't run and he said, it's fine, just give me 100% every time you face the ball," Klaasen said with a smile.

"It's still a privilege to play for our country, especially in a moment like this, after a bad loss against the Netherlands, you gotta dig deep for your country as well. So yeah, I've worked my whole life for it, so it's a great moment."

This was the third ODI century of the year for Klaasen. "It ranks up to one of my better hundreds purely on the conditions that were out there. I really had to dig deep mentally. Physically, I was not in a good space, but mentally I had to dig very deep there," he said.

"Everyone obviously has got their tag over us but we've played some good cricket in the World Cup. We've been unlucky and obviously, we didn't execute on certain games. But if you go look at our games that we've played, we've played some very, very good cricket.

Not a surprise

"So, it's not a surprise that we're playing good cricket. This group has been playing good cricket for the last three years now. And we've been maturing nicely over the last three years.

"And it's our time to really try to make a big statement for the world that South Africans are very good under pressure," Klaasen said.

South Africa's senior men's team has never won an ODI World Cup, and this time around things look promising.

Klaasen. PTI

THE GIST

- The hundred against England was Klaasen's third of the year
- South Africa's senior men's team has never won the ODI World Cup

Military training and discipline give Vishnu a fresh perspective

Kamesh Srinivasan

An Olympian is a rare breed. In Indian tennis, only Leander Paes comes to mind as an Olympian for his heart-warming achievement of winning the Olympic bronze despite being a rank outsider in the Atlanta Games in 1996.

We also remember multiple Grand Slam champion Paes for partnering rookie Vishnu Vardhan for the London Olympics, when Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna decided to stick together as a pair.

Vishnu was a very good student and learnt the finer points of grass court tennis from his versatile partner in Wimbledon where the Olympic tennis was played in the London Games in 2012. His exhilarating return winners off Jo Wilfred Tsonga, a top-10 singles player from France, on the quick grass of Wimbledon is still fresh in mind.

Vishnu has gone on to win 44 doubles and 10 singles titles in the international circuit – and even won a doubles round in Wimbledon, partnering Sriram Balaji in 2018.

At 36, the Human Resources officer with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) may be far from his best ranks of 262 (2012) in singles and 92 (2018) in doubles, but the drive to break new ground by getting out of the comfort zone keeps him young.

No privilege: It was back to the basics for Vishnu in military training. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vishnu chose to undergo basic military training, organised regularly by ONGC. It was a month-long hard training with the 811 Territorial Army Engineers Regiment in Vadodara. These trained officers, known as Energy Soldiers, are at times utilised to ensure regular supply from the oil drills that are directly linked to the health of the nation.

"We could have done the training in two parts of two weeks each in two different periods, but I did it in one go for full effect and to derive total benefit," Vishnu said about the rigorous training that gave him a new perspective of life.

As an international sportsman and an officer, Vishnu has been used to certain privileges and good life. But it was back to the basics in the military training as everyone gets treated on par. The punishment for not being perfect can really be a humbling experience, as Vishnu found out.

"At the very start one of the trainers, a Havildar told us '*jitna ragada hoga, uthna shine maroge*'. (Stronger the punishment, better you shine!) The punishment could range from crawling without using knees and palms, front rolls, frog jumps, push ups, and the Maharaja position. If the shoe lace was not tied properly, one had to take the punishment of frog jumps and also inspect everyone's shoes. It was very humbling. There were times when we were given punishment without any reason. An order had been given, you just obey. No questions," remembered Vishnu, who was given the title of Lieutenant at the passing out parade.

Even as the ego was shattered and a strong personality was rebuilt, Vishnu said that the whole experience made a life-long bonding of the fellow trainees to the extent that they would do anything for each other despite having spent such a short time together.

Even though he had longed to undergo the training for the last few years, Vishnu contemplated an early exit when he felt overwhelmed.

"Perhaps my ego had got a jolt. I thought, 'I don't need to do this. I deserve to be comfortable'," said Vishnu.

It was his wife Sonia who ensured Vishnu hung on and completed the course.

"I told him that he had wanted to do it all along. He did understand that it was a privilege to go through the training. He also realised that achieving the best required greatest sacrifices," said Sonia.

The training changed Vishnu's routine.

"There was no time for phone or social media. One crashed into the bed at the end of the day, for we had to be up at 4 a.m. next day for training," said Vishnu.

He did lose three kilograms in body weight, but gained invaluable lessons.

It is one aspect that Vishnu wants to introduce to the youngsters in tennis. Curtail their screen time, so that they are able to focus on their game and life, with a lot more purpose, and be in a better position to maximise their potential.

His admiration for Rohan Bopanna, a top-10 doubles player has only increased, as a classic example of how one can be on top of his game, despite being 43 years of age.

"I did have training with Rohan, Saketh Myneni and Yuki Bhambri in Europe this year. Rohan has no technical change, or structural change. But he is better physically. He is playing so well with experience and anticipation. He is looking quicker on court", said Vishnu, hoping to use the inspiration to build himself back in the professional circuit.

More than anything, Vishnu wants his five-year-old son to have some good basics and discipline to give himself a better chance for excellence in anything that he wants to pursue in life.

For the first time, there was a lady officer as the commandant of the unit. It was a proud moment for Vishnu when the Commanding Officer, Col. Preena Verma and Sonia put the stars on his shoulder at the passing out parade.

"They really took care of the family members when they were with us for two days. There was so much respect for women in the Officers mess. They understand that the family makes the biggest sacrifice by letting a member serve the country," said Vishnu.

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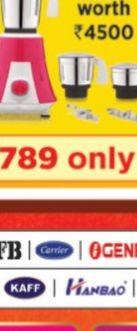

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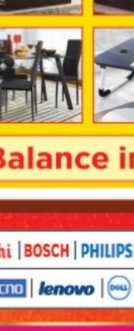

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End-to-end digital examination system for Nursing and paramedical courses in State

The government has decided to implement this new system to avoid ghost students, ghost writers, and ghost colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To avoid ghost students, ghost writers, and ghost colleges, and bring in transparency, the State government has decided to implement 'end-to-end digital examination system' for the semester exams of Nursing and paramedical courses.

The new system has digital evaluation and sending question papers digitally, among other measures. The government is planning to implement the new system from 2023-24.

The new system has digital evaluation and sending question papers digitally, among other measures. The government is planning to implement the new system from 2023-24.

The Directorate of Medical Education has submitted a detailed project report to the government in this regard and the process of permission for tender is under progress.

"In the last two years, we had lot of allegations and irregularities in the Nursing and paramedical examinations in the State. Many colleges have been violating the rules and regulations of the government and ghost students, ghost colleges, ghost writers, and malpractices are common in these examinations. Therefore, to prevent all these irregularities and bring transparency, we decided to implement end-to-end digital examination system in the State," said B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education.

With nursing and paramedical colleges having mushroomed across the State, most private nursing colleges are targeting out-of-State students and selling seats at exorbitant rates. There is also a problem of fake students, students appearing only for the exam without attending the college, ghost students writing the exam, mass copying, and other examination malpractices.

The High Court of Karnataka had recently ordered a private nursing college in Kalaburagi to pay a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to 10 students whom it enrolled by fraud. A suspected fake bill scam had also been reported at Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), with four nursing colleges allegedly generating dubious receipts for affiliation fees.

To prevent all these irregularities, the Central government has made Common Entrance Test (CET) compulsory for Nursing admission across India from 2023-24. The Karnataka Examinations Authority successfully completed the Nursing admission through CET this year.

As a continuation of this, the State government has decided to implement the 'end-to-end digital examination system' for Nursing and paramedical courses.

What's new?

As a part of the new system, the government will create a separate login ID for each student. All the information, including examination, admission, fee and others, will be shared with the students through this ID only. Instead of sending the admission tickets to the college principal, the digital admission tickets will be sent to the student's login IDs. Then, students will download the admission tickets and attend the examination.

To avoid question paper leakage and other malpractices, the Directorate of Medical Examination has decided to send the digitised question papers to the college principal concerned on the day of the examination. Then, the authorities will download, print and distribute them to the students.

Digital evaluation is a major part of the end-to-end digital examination system. After the theory examination, all the answer sheets will be scanned and converted to digital. Then, evaluators will conduct the evaluation of these answer sheets on computers. This will also help in announcing the results early, officials said.

"The end-to-end digital examination system is nothing but a completely digitised monitoring system. It will start with the process of admission tickets, student identification and end with digital evaluation. The digital evaluation system is the biggest process and it needs a separate high-end software and computer system. We have submitted the detailed project report to the government for permission for the tendering. We are planning to introduce this new system from this academic year," Dr. Rathod explained.

BBMP invites volunteers for 'Kere Mitras' and 'Hasiru Mitras'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has invited volunteers to supervise its lakes and parks as a 'Kere Mitra' and a 'Hasiru Mitra.'

The BBMP has put out a notification in this regard and interested volunteers can apply through the BBMP website (www.bbmp.gov.in) before 5 p.m. of October 30.

The programme will cover around 1,251 parks and 202 lakes in the BBMP limits.

The volunteers should select their interested lake or parks and regularly monitor the development works and update it on the BBMP website. This will help maintain the lakes and parks effectively, the BBMP notification said.

Of the total volunteers registered, every month 10 volunteers for every lake/park will be selected through an online randomisation process. Once selected for that month, the 'Kere Mitra'/'Hasiru Mitra' will receive a message with login credentials on their e-mail ID and cellphones. They may then use the web application for this purpose. The details of the web application will be provided on the BBMP website in November once the registration process is completed.

'Kere Mitras' can monitor the ongoing activities in lakes such as pathway sweeping, bund slope cleaning, waterbody deweeding, inlet cleaning, wetland cleaning, jungle clearance, Home Guards attendance, lake timings, officials' visits etc., while 'Hasiru Mitras' will monitor daily sweeping, pruning of hedges, shrubs and other plants, watering, lawn mowing and borewell maintenance, opening and closing of gates as per rules, garbage removal, and all electrical works of the parks.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 23, Monday), the following articles are available:

- Have earnings grown post-pandemic? **bit.ly/pandemicearnings**
- How bat genomes provide insights into immunity and cancer **bit.ly/batgenomes**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No: 05 MYS 2023-24
Dated: 11-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	450 CFM Diesel driven rotary screw type air compressor. **(Tender No. L9236120)**	**Rs. 26,62,000/-**
2	120 CFM Electrical driven rotary screw type air compressor. **(Tender No. L9236119)**	**Rs. 39,64,000/-**
3	500 CFM Electrical driven rotary screw type air compressor. **(Tender No. L9236118)**	**Rs. 33,67,000/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 15-11-2023**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/458/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 41/MYS/2023 of 18-10-2023

Item of work	Approx. Value
Sub Work -I: Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed Track Ballast conforming to RDSO Specification at Sakharayapatna Depot **Sub Work-II** : Leading and loading Railway's ballast, collected at yard / depot / mid-section into Railway's BOB / BKH / any other type of open wagon.	**Rs. 9,33,85,807/-**

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 42/MYS/2023 of 18-10-2023

Item of work	Approx. Value
Annual Maintenance Contract for GPS Trackers in Mysuru Division.	**Rs. 6,64,801/-**

Last date for submission of bids for above Tenders: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ordination
PUB/463/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No. 34 UBL 2023-24
Dated: 17-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :-** **Sub Work-I :-** Installation and maintenance for the Automated water level guage for Two Years at : **(I)** Br. No. 87@Km. 556/900-557/000 of span 3 X 6.10m between Alnavar - Londa. **(II)** Br. No. 109 @ Km. 648/400-500 of span 2 x 12.20m between Londa - Miraj **Sub Work-II :-** Annual maintenance for the Automated water level guage for Two Years at : **(I)** Br. No. 44@ Km. 583/655-583/744 of span 10 X 6.1m + 3 x 9.1m between Londa.- Miraj. **(II)** Br. No. 125 @ Km. 664/100-700 of span 45 x 12.20m between Londa - Miraj. **(III)** Br. 184 @ Km. 715/970-716/670 of span 14 x 45.72m between Londa - Miraj. (**Note:-** Special conditions to be follow;)	**Rs. 41,96,620/-**
2	**Hubballi Division :-** Improvements to approach road surfaces at LC gates under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Castle Rock section.	**Rs. 77,76,562/-**
3	**Hubballi Division :-** Assistant Divisional Engineer/West/ Hubballi Section: Hubballi (Excl) Alnavar to Ambewadi (Incl) **(Zone-12)**	**Rs. 10,76,778/-**
4	**Hubballi Division :-** Improvements to infrastructure at MDZTI/Dharwad.	**Rs. 1,16,86,775/-**
5	**Hubballi Division :-** Improvements to existing bridges in Assistant Divisional Engineer/West /Hubballi Jurisdiction.	**Rs. 45,76,242/-**
6	**Hubballi Division :-** Toranagallu-Hosapete Junction-Construction of Sand Room at Hosapete(HPT) and Toranagallu (TNGL).	**Rs. 49,96,231/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination
PUB/457/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No. CN/09/2023 Dated: 17-10-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
1	**95235029**	4 Core X 16 Sq.mm 1100 V grade, Stranded Aluminium Conductor Galvanised Steel Strip armoured XLPE Cable conforming to IS:7098 Part I etc. **Qty-40080 MTRS**	**09-11-2023**
2	**95235571**	Un-insulated cadmium copper catenary wire 65 Sq.mm (19/2.10mm) as per specn:TI/SPC/OHE/CAT (CU-Cd) /0971 & STR:TI/STR/020 Rev. 02 etc. **Qty-31.75 MTRS**	**16-11-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/459/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Chief Materials Manager, Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಹುಣಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹುಣಸೂರು
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಅಸಂ/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–19 /2023–24 ದಿ: 18.10.2023

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000 ರಂತೆ, ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಅವಗಾಹನೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ 03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಅರಣ್ಯೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಾಗಿ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಮೂಲಕ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು, ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ (2 ನೇ ಕರೆ) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿ: 31.10.2023 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 02.11.2023 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 03.11.2023 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ, ಈ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/552/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **Smt. PRAMILA MADHUSUDAN**, W/o late C.S. Madhusudan and her children namely, **Sri. M. GURURAJ, Sri. M. VENKATESH & Sri. M. TILAK**, all residing at: No.73, Ranga Rao Road, Shankarapuram, Bengaluru-560004.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the supporting legal documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of (a)the Ground Floor House property bearing Municipal No.73, PID No.49-65-73; (b) the First Floor House property bearing Municipal No.73/2, PID No.49-65-73/2 and (c) the Ground Floor House property bearing Municipal No.73/3, PID No.49-65-73/3, built in the land measuring East to West (84'+86'3")/2 and North to South 46'6", situated at Ranga Rao Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004 and bounded on:

East by : Ranga Rao Road
West by : Property of Sri. B. Vasudeva Murthy
North by : Property of Sri.A.Suresh and property of Sri. P.R.Sudarshan (formerly belonged to C.S. Narayanaswamy)
South by : Property of Sri. C.S. Ramanath

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Secunderabad

D.No.5-9-76, 2nd& 3rd Floors, Prabhat Towers, Opp. SBI Amaravati LHO, Chapel Road, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad-500001. E-mail ID: team3samb.sec@sbi.co.in, Tel: 040-2322 1860

Authorised Officer's Details : Name : Mr. Sai Baba
E-mail ID : team3samb.sec@sbi.co.in Mobile No : 94087 09424

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **State Bank of India,** the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is Where is, As is What is and Whatever there is"** basis on **09.11.2023** for recovery of dues as under :

1) The Managing Partner, Girija Modern Rice Mill, Door No 6-22, Enikepadu, Vijayawada-521108. **2) The Managing Partner, Pallavi Enterprises,** Door No 6 -22, Enikepadu, Vijayawada-521 108. **3) Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham, S/o.LakshmiKanthaiah,** D No:29-2-12, Rama Mandiram Street, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002. **4) SmtTatikondaSavithri, W/o.Viswanatham,** D No:29-2-12, Rama Mandiram Street, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002. **5) Vutukuri Venkata Ajay Krishna, S/o Venkata Veereswara Rao,** D.No. 29-2-12, Rama Mandiram Street, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002. **6) Smt. A Venkata Lakshmi Girija W/o Ravi Kumar Attuluri,** D.No. 29-1-30 & 29-1-23, Maladivari Street, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002. **7) Karamuri Venkata Pallavi, W/o K V Uday Madhav,** D.No. 22-12-1/3, Karumurivari Street, Opp. Elementary School Gramakanttam, Bhimavaram, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh-534201. **8) Smt.Pothuri Venkata Rama Vanaja, W/o P Srinivasa Kumar,** D.No.40-15-2, Nandamuri Street, Lifestyle, Labbipeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-520010. **9) Vutukuri Vaishali, W/o Venkata Ajay Krishna,** D.No.29-2-12, Rama Mandiram Street, Eluru Road, Vijayawada-520002. **10) Pothuri Srinivasa Kumar, S/o P Venkata Ratnam,** D.No.40-15-2, Nandamuri Street, Lifestyle, Labbipeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-520010.

Girija Modern Rice Mill : Rs.19,18,80,260.84(Rupees Nineteen Crores Eighteen Lakhs Eighty Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty and Paisa Eighty Four only) as on30.09.2023 + interest due from **01.10.2023** + expenses due to the secured creditors from **M/s. Girija Modern Rice Mill (Borrower) and (1) Sri. TatikondaViswanatham (2) Smt. TatikondaSavitri (3) Smt.A.Venkata Lakshmi Girija (4) Smt. KarumuriVenkataPallavi (5) Smt. PothuriVenkata Rama Vanaja (6) Smt. VutukuriVaishali (7) Sri. VutukuriVenkata Ajay Krishna and (8) Sri. PothuriSrinivasa Kumar (All Guarantors)**

Pallavi Enterprises : Rs.32,48,56,881.32(Rupees Thirty Two Crores Forty Eight Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty one and paisa Thirty Two only) as on 30.09.2023 + interest due from **01.10.2023** + expenses due to the secured creditors from **M/s. Pallavi Enterprises (Borrower) and (1) Sri. TatikondaViswanatham (2) Smt. TatikondaSavitri (3) Smt.A.Venkata Lakshmi Girija (4) Smt. KarumuriVenkataPallavi (5) Smt. PothuriVenkata Rama Vanaja (6) Smt. VutukuriVaishali (7) Sri. VutukuriVenkata Ajay Krishna and (8) Sri. PothuriSrinivasa Kumar (All Guarantors)**

As the secured interest created upon properties for which auction will be held on **09.11.2023** are common to Pallavi Enterprises and Girija Modern Rice Mill, single auction will be conducted for recovery of dues of both the units.

Description of immovable properties, reserve price, EMD to be deposited, auction date & timings and Bid increment amounts are mentioned here below :

Lot - 1 : (Confirmation of sale of this lot will be subject to confirmation of sale of Lot -2)

1) Factory site together with Factory Building to an extent of Ac.3.09 cents, situated at RS No 158/1, 2 & 157/5, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to M/s Pallavi Enterprises, Enikepadu, Vijayawada vide **1)** Regd Sale deed No 5589/1983 dt 29.08.1983, **2)** Regd Sale deed No 5349/1983 dt 17.08.1983, **3)** Regd Sale deed No 5958/1983 dt 17.09.1983, **4)**Regd Sale deed No 6795/1983 dt 14.11.1983, **5)** Regd Sale deed No 2975/1984 dt 22.05.1984, **6)** Regd Sale deed No 5348/1983 dt 17.08.1983, **7)** Regd Sale deed No 5808/1983 dt 09.09.1983, **8)** Regd Sale deed No 5795/1984 dt 29.08.1984, Regd. Sale deed No 5796/1984 dt 29.08.1984 and **bounded by:**

S No. : i : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises , **Sale Deed No :** 5349/1983 Dt 17.08.1983, **Extent :** Ac 0.40 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Land of Koneru Narasimha Rao and others, **South :** Land of Koneru Bhaskara Rao, **West :** Land of Vallabhaneni Indira, **North :** Land of Koneru Bhaskara Rao.

S No. : ii : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No. 5348/1983, 5589/1983 Dt 29.08.1983. **Extent** :Ac 0.40 cents, Ac.0.50 cents , **Boundaries : East :** Harijana Vada, **South:** Land of KandulaJayagopalarao, **West:** Land of Koneru Narasimha Rao & others, **North :** Land of Podugual Subbarao.

S No. : iii : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** 5589/1983 Dt 29.08.1983, **Extent** :Ac0.50 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Land of Yerneni Rama Krishna Babu and others, **South:** Land of Koneru Kasi Viseswara Rao, **West:** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **North:** Land of Koneru Narasimharao, Koneru Venkata Krishna Rao, Koneru Joshi, and Koneru Bosubabu.

S No. : iv : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No 5808/1983 Dt 09.09.1983, **Extent** :Ac0.39 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Harijana Vada, **South:** Land of Yerneni Rama Krishna Babu andYerneni Lakshmi Narayana, **West:** Land of Koneru Narasimha Rao, **North:** Rivas canal Road.

S No. : v : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** 5958/1983 Dt 29.08.1983, **Extent** :Ac0.47 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Land of Yerneni Rama Krishna Babu and others, **South:** M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **West:** Land of Koneru Bhaskara Rao, **North:** Rivas canal Road.

S No. : vi : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No 6795/1983 Dt 14.11.1983, **Extent** :Ac0.17 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Land of Yerneni Lakshmi Narayana, **South:** Land of Yerneni Lakshmi Narayana, **West:** Land of Vallabhaneni Indira, **North:** Residual Land of Koneru Bhaskar Rao.

S No. : vii : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No 2975/1984 Dt 22.05.1984, **Extent** :Ac0.46 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Land of Yerneni Lakshmi Narayana, **South:** Land ofYerneni Lakshmi Narayana, **West:** Land of Koneru Kasi Viseswara Rao and others, **North:** Rivas canal Road.

S No. : viii : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No 5795/1983 Dt 29.08.1984., **Extent** :Ac.0.15 cents, **Boundaries : East :** KandalaVenkatamma, **South:** Landof Potluri Janardhana Murthy, **West:** Land of AvulaSatyanarayana, **North:** Harijan Wada to some extent and Land of Yarlagadda Veeranna.

S No. : ix : Name of the Title Deed Holder : M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **Sale Deed No :** Partnership Deed dated 09.03.1998, 07.07.2004, 14.05.2011 & Form -A issued by Registrar of Firms, Hyderabad on 25.11.2004 and Sale Deed No 5796/1983 Dt 29.08.1984, **Extent** :Ac.0.15 cents, **Boundaries : East :** Harijana Vada, **South:** Land of Y. Veeranna to some extent and Land of AvulaSatyanarayana to some extent, **West:** Land of AvulaSatyanarayana, **North :** Land of RS No 158/2 belonging to Yerneni Ramakrishna Babu.

Boundaries : On the North by : Rivas canal Road, **On the South by :** Land of Adusmilli SeshagiriRaoand Land of Vallabhaneni Indira, **On the East by :** Harijan colony, **On the West by :** Land of Vallabhaneni Indira.

2) Factory site to an extent of 169sq yds, situated at RS No 159/1, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to M/s Pallavi Enterprises, Enikepadu, Vijayawada vide Regd. sale deed No 2700/2000 dt 10.11.2000, **bounded by : On the North by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **On the South by :** Agricultural land of Boyapati Padmaja Rani, **On the East by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **On the West by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises.

3) Factory site to an extent of Ac0.40cents, situated at RS No 159/2, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/LakshmiKanthiah vide Regd. sale deed No 2622/2007 dt 11.06.2007, **bounded by : On the North by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **On the South by :** Joint passage for Potluri Janardhana Murthy and M/s Pallavi Enterprises, **On the East by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises (Ac0.15cents of land pertains to M/s. Pallavi Enterprises given by Sri Yarlagadda Veeranna), **On the West by :** Land of M/s Pallavi Enterprises

1 to 3 Properties originally mortgaged to M/s. Pallavi Enterprises (PE) and the same were extended to M/s. Girija Modern Rice Mill.

4) Factory site together with Factory Building to an extent of Ac1.33 cents, situated at RS No 159/1, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Late Pulipati Lakshmi Kantamma vide Registered sale Deed No.3308/2003 dated 06.12.2003 bequeathed to Sri TatikondaViswanatham vide registered will bearing Doc. No.25/ Bk-IV/2004 dated 11.03.2004, **bounded by: On the North by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham, **On the South by :** Land of Rachamalla Rama Kotaiah and others, **On the East by :** Land of Seshagiri Rao, **On the West by :** Land of Vallabhaneni Indira.

5) Factory site together with Factory Building to an extent of Ac1.87 ½ cents, situated at RS No158/3, 159/1 and 159/2, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, SubRegistrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/o Lakshmi Kanthiah vide Registered sale Deed No2956/2007, dated 05.07.2007 **bounded by: On the North by:** Land of Yarlagadda Veeranna to some extentand Land of Pallavi Enterprises' to some extent, **On the South by:** Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy to some extent and Land of Koneru Narasimha Rao to some extent, **On the East by:** Land of Yarlagadda Veeranna, **On the West by:** Land of Smt. Pulipati Lakshmi Kantamma.

6) Factory site together with Factory Building to an extent of Ac. 0.60 ½ cents, situated at RS No160/1,161/2B,161/2C, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar,Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/o Lakshmi Kanthiah vide Registered sale Deed No. 2517/2007 dated 31.05.2007 **bounded by:**

Item No: 1: Ac 0.54 cents or 0.2185 Hectares : Krishna District, Office of the Sub Registrar Gunandala within the jurisdiction of Vijayawada District Registrar, Vijayawada Rural Mandal, Enikepadu Gram Panchayat Area, Enikepadu Village R.S.No.160/1.

On the North by: Land of TatikondaViswanatham to some extentand Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy to some extent, **On the South by :** 33' Road to some extent and Land of Rachamalla Arjuna Rao to some extent, **On the East by:** Land of G Ramesh and others, **On the West by:** Land of Rachamalla Rama Kotaiah and others.

In between the above four boundaries an extent of Ac.0.54 cents or 0.2185 Hectares of land belonging to Sri. Tatikonda Viswanatham.

Item No: 2: Ac 0.06 ½ cents - Enikepadu Village R.S.No161/2b, 161/2c : On the North by : Vehicles' passage, **On the South by :** Passage, **On the East by :** Land of Pondugula Subbarao and others, **On the West by :** Land of K Nageswararao and others.

In between the above four boundaries an extent of Ac.0.32 ½ cents or 0.130 Hectares of land belonging to Sri. Tatikonda Viswanatham.

7) Factory site together with Factory Building to an extent of Ac.0.44 ½ cents, situated at RS No 160/2,160/4, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, District Registrar, Vijayawada (East), Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/o Lakshmi Kanthiah vide Registered sale Deed No 955/2009, dated 04.05.2009 **bounded by : On the North by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham-153 Links, **On the South by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham 152 ½ Links, **On the East by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham 298 ½ Links, **On the West by :** Land of Tripemeni Naga Mani & Kalyana Chakravarthy-285 Links.

In between the above four boundaries an extent of Ac.0.44 ½ cents or 0.180 Hectares of land belonging to Sri. Tatikonda Viswanatham, with all easement rights.

8) Factory site to an extent of Ac. 0.02 1/8 cents, situated at RS No 159/1, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/o Lakshmi Kanthiah vide Registered sale Deed No672/2008, dated 09.02.2008 **bounded by : On the North by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham, **On the South by :** Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy, **On the East by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham to some extentand Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy to some extent, **On the West by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham.

In between the above four boundaries an extent of Ac.0.08 ½ cents or 0.0344 Hectares of dry land out of which undivided and unspecified ¼ share of Ac.0.02? cents or 0.0086Hectares of dry land belonging to Shri.Tatikonda Viswanatham, with all easement rights.

9) Factory site to an extent of Ac. 0.04 1/4 cents, situated at RS No 159/1, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar,Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Viswanatham S/o Lakshmi Kanthiah vide Registered sale Deed No. 673/2008, dated 23.02.2008 **bounded by: On the North by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham, **On the South by :** Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy, **On the East by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham to some extent and Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy to some extent, **On the West by :** Land of Tatikonda Viswanatham.

4 to 9 Properties originally mortgaged to Girija Modern Rice Mill (GMRM) and the same were extended to Pallavi Enterprises (PE).

Reserve Price: Rs.60,06,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.6,00,60,000/-; Bid Increment: Rs.10,00,000/-
Auction date: 09.11.2023 Auction Time: 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 PM ;

Lot-2 : Plant and Machinery (Power Plant) in the name of Pallavi Enterprises
Reserve Price: Rs.3,84,20,000/-; EMD: Rs.38,42,000/-; Bid Increment: Rs.1,00,000/-
Auction date: 09.11.2023. Auction Time: 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 PM;

Lot -3 : Factory site to an extent of Ac 3.28cents, situated at RS No 159/3, Enikepadu Village-521108, Vijayawada (Rural), Krishna District, Sub Registrar, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Krishna District, belonging to Sri Tatikonda Savitri W/o Viswanatham vide Regd sale deed No 643/2007 dt 15.02.2007, **bounded by: On the North by :** Land of Harijans, **On the South by :** Land of Vallabhaneni Indira, **On the East by :** Land of Koppuravuir Sri Krishna, **On the West by :** Land of Potluri Janardhana Murthy and others.
This property originally mortgaged to M/s. Pallavi Enterprises (PE) extended to M/s. Girija Modern Rice Mill.
Reserve Price: Rs.25,00,00,000/-; EMD: Rs.2,50,00,000/-; Bid Increment: Rs.10,00,000/-
Auction date: 09.11.2023. Auction Time: 11.00 a.m.to 2.00 PM;

EMD Remittance : The intending bidders have to get themselves registered on INDIAN BANKS AUCTION PROPERTIES INFORMATION (IBAPI) PORTAL (**https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp**) for participation in the e-auction process. The Bidders have to register themselves well before the auction date as registration of bidders takes minimum of three working days. **The intending bidder should submit the EMD deposit to IBAPI wallet in IBAPI portal through their Bank account.**

For inspection and any clarifications, the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer on **Phone No.94087 09424.**

Note : This is also a notice to the Borrower/ Guarantors of the said loan about holding of e-auction sale of the property on the aforesaid mentioned date if the dues are not repaid in full before the date of e-auction.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **State Bank of India,** the Secured Creditor's website **(a) www.sbi.co.in (b) https://ibapi.in**

Date and Time during which inspection of the immovable secured assets to be sold and intending bidders should satisfy themselves about the assets and their specification : **On 31.10.2023, between 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.** (with prior appointment)
Contact persons with mobile number : Mr. Sai Baba, Cell No.: 94087 09424.

Other Terms & Conditions : a) Bidders shall hold a valid digital Signature Certificate issued by competent authority (As of now it is not mandatory) and valid KYC & email ID. E-Mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder as all the relevant information and allotment of ID and password by INDIAN BANKS AUCTION PROPERTIES INFORMATION (IBAPI) PORTAL (**https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp**) may be conveyed through e mail. **b)** The intending bidder/s have to get themselves registered on the IBAPIportal (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp) for participation in the e-auction process. The Bidders have to register themselves well before the auction date as registration of bidders takes minimum of three working days. The intending bidder should submit the EMD deposit through IBAPI portal and additionally submit Self-attested copies of **(i)** Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. ID card/Driving License/Passport etc., **(ii)** Current Address-proof of communication, **(iii)** PAN card of the bidder **(iv)** valid e-mail ID, (V) Contact Number (Mobile/Land Line) of the bidder etc., to the Authorized Officer of **State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, D.No.5-9-76, 2nd & 3rd Floors, Prabhat Towers, Opp..SBI Amaravati LHO, Chapel Road, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad-500001.** Scanned copies of the original of these documents can also be submitted to e-mail id (**team3samb.sec@sbi.co.in**) of Authorized Officer. **c)** Names of Eligible Bidders will be identified by the State Bank of India,Stressed Assets Management Branch / IBAPI Portal to participate in online e-Auction on the portal **https://ibapi.in**. IBAPI portal will provide User ID and Password after registration on their portal is successful. **d)** The successful bidder shall be required to submit the final prices, quoted during the e-Auction after the completion of the e-Auction, duly signed and stamped as token of acceptance without any new condition other than those already agreed to before start of e-Auction. **e)** During e-Auction, if no bid is received within the specified time, State Bank of India at its discretion may decide to revise opening price/scrap the e-Auction process/proceed with conventional mode of tendering. **f)** The Bank/IBAPI portal for e-Auction shall not have any liability towards bidders for any interruption or delay in access to the site irrespective of the causes. **g)** The bidders are required to accept the terms & conditions and modalities of e-Auction adopted by the IBAPI portal, before participating in the e-Auction. The bid once submitted by the bidder, cannot be cancelled/withdrawn and the bidder shall be bound to buy the property at the final bid price. The failure on the part of bidder to comply with any of the terms and conditions of e-Auction, mentioned herein will result in forfeiture of the amount paid by the defaulting bidder. **h)** Decision of the Authorized Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and binding on all the bidders. **i)** The Authorized Officer shall be at liberty to cancel the e-Auction process/tender at any time, before declaring the successful bidder, without assigning any reason. **j)** The property shall not be sold below the reserve price. **k)**The conditional bids may be treated as invalid. Please note that after submission of the bid/s, no correspondence regarding any change in the bid shall be entertained. **l)** The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder/s will be refunded to their respective account numbers by IBAPI portal after placing refund request by them on the said portal. The bidders will not be entitled to claim any interest, costs, expenses and any other charges (if any). **m)** The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-Auction without assigning any reason thereof. The sale is subject to confirmation by the secured creditor. **n)** In case of forfeiture of the amount deposited by the defaulting bidder, he shall neither have claim on the property nor on any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. **o)** The successful bidder shall bear all the necessary expenses like applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty / transfer charges, Registration expenses, Tax, fees etc. for transfer of the property in his/her name. **p)** The payment of all statutory/non- statutory dues, taxes, GST rates, assessments, charges, fees etc., owing to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of successful bidder only. **q)** The bidders are advised to in their own interest to satisfy themselves with the title and correctness of other details pertaining to the immoveable secured assets including the size/area of the immovable secured assets in question. They shall independently ascertain any other dues/ liabilities/encumbrances in respect of the property from the concerned authorities to their satisfaction before submitting the bids. It would not be open for the Bidder(s) whose bid is accepted by Authorised Officer to withdraw his bid, either on the ground of discrepancy in size/area, defect in title, encumbrances or any other ground whatsoever. **r)** In case any dispute arises as to the validity of the bid(s), amount ofbid, EMD or as to the eligibility of the bidder, authority of the person representing the bidder, the interpretation and decision of the Authorised Officer shall be final. In such an eventuality, the Bank shall in its sole discretion be entitled to call off the sale and put the property to sale once again on any date and at such time as may be decided by the Bank. For any kind of dispute, bidders are required to contact the concerned Authorised Officer of the concerned bank branch only. **s)** The sale certificate shall be issued after receipt of entire sale consideration and confirmation of sale by secured creditor. The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the successful bidder. No request for change of name in the sale certificate other than the person who submitted the bid/participated in the e-Auction will be entertained.

Date : 16.10.2023, Place : Hyderabad **Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER, STATE BANK OF INDIA**

How bat genomes provide insights into immunity and cancer

Genome sequencing has become the mainstay of investigations of the viruses that bats carry, also known as the bat virome. Aside from knowing that bats can harbour all types of viruses, we have also found that bats can harbour multiple viruses at the same time without themselves falling ill

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Bats are extraordinary organisms in many ways. They are the only mammals on the earth that can maintain sustained flight. They also have relatively long life-spans and are relatively more protected from a variety of diseases, including cancer. They also have a unique ability in echolocation, whereby they use sound to navigate and locate objects, freeing them from being constrained by the availability of light like humans are.

By population, bats make up 20% of all mammals. There are more than 1,400 species of bats today around the world; more than 60 are endangered and 170-odd are classified as vulnerable. The bumblebee bat weighs only 2 grams whereas the flying foxes, which have a wingspan of 1.5 metres, weigh up to 1.6 kg.

In all, bats play crucial roles in maintaining the ecological balance, and are essential for pollination, insect control, etc.

However, bats have grabbed the headlines of late for the wrong reasons. Their notoriety stems from the fact that many deadly viruses use bats as a reservoir host, including coronaviruses, Nipah, Ebola, Marburg virus, and Hendra virus, among others. The COVID-19 pandemic also cast a bright spotlight on the habits of bats.

Bats do host a wide variety of pathogens, including ones deadly to other mammals, but they themselves don't get infected. Scientists have been curious about the source of this protection.

The bat genomes

Scientists' first object of study is the bat genome. Over the years, researchers have unearthed significant insights by sequencing the genomes of many bat species. Bats are also unique because they have a relatively small genome, around 2 billion bases.

One watershed moment came in 2013. In a paper published in the journal *Science*, scientists compared the genomes of a fruit-eating and an insect-eating species and found that genes involved in metabolism and immune response had been positively selected. That is, these bats had evolved by improving these two biological domains.

In the following decade, scientists sequenced a large number of bat genomes. The ambitious Bat1K global genome consortium - to sequence all the 1,400 or so species' genomes - is also currently underway.

A number of studies have also shed insights into the peculiar biological features of bats. For example, by analysing bat genomes, scientists have found the natural selection of a protein called prestin, which is involved in echolocation (dolphins have the same protein).

Close-up of two fruit bats hanging upside down in a tree in Australia. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Immune insights

Of course, immunity-related genes have been one of the more well-studied gene classes in bats. The fraction of these genes is also unique in bats: some 2.7-3.5% of the bat genome versus roughly 7% of the human genome. Emerging evidence also suggests that a set of immune-related genes have been undergoing positive selection in bats, adapting them to control the spread of viruses while mitigating the antiviral inflammatory response. As a result, the bats are shielded from the effects of the clinical response of their bodies to these viruses.

The heightened pro-inflammatory activity is what makes these viruses deadly in humans.

One of the first Bat1K genome consortium papers described six high-quality bat species genomes in the journal *Nature*. It suggested that echolocation, loss of pro-inflammatory genes, and expansion of antiviral genes are ancestral traits of bats. This suggests that bats have molecular mechanisms that allow them to host a range of deadly viruses but evade clinical disease.

It is not surprising, therefore, that genome sequencing - but especially metagenomic sequencing, adept at providing an unbiased view of the diversity of viruses - has been the mainstay of investigations of the viruses that bats carry, also known as the *bat virome*. Aside from knowing that bats can harbour all types of viruses, we have also found that bats can harbour multiple viruses at the same time, i.e. in a state of co-infection, without themselves falling ill.

> Bats make up 20% of all mammals. There are more than 1,400 species of bats today around the world; more than 60 are endangered and 170-odd are classified as vulnerable

Long reads, deeper insights

Long-read sequencing technologies are those that can 'read' thousands to tens of thousands of bases of a genome at a time. With their advent, it has become possible today for scientists to quickly assemble the nearly complete whole-genomes of organisms. Another benefit to them is that they no longer had to use more complex, time-consuming, and expensive molecular technologies in the pursuit of building complete genomes.

A recent report by researchers from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, used a long-read technology to sequence two bat genomes as well as compared the genomes of 15 species that were already available. Their results were published in the recent edition of the journal *Genome Biology and Evolution*.

The researchers reported that subsets of genes involved in mounting an immune response - which encode proteins called interferons (IFN) - had contracted significantly. This in turn changed the relative proportions of two subsets, interferon-alpha (IFN-α) and interferon-omega (IFN-ω), relative to each other.

The researchers attributed bats' immune properties to these changes. By shedding the genes for IFN-α, bats can dampen the pro-inflammatory response against a number of viruses, thus protecting themselves from clinical disease.

The researchers also reported that a number of genes involved in suppressing tumours and in repairing DNA contained signs of positive selection. According to them, this could contribute to the bats' longer life span and a significantly lower risk of developing cancer.

With rapid deforestation, ecological degradation, and more and more unfavourable human-animal interactions, we should expect significantly enhanced outbreaks of zoonotic diseases in future. The Nipah outbreaks in Kerala over the last few years is a good example, as are outbreaks of Marburg disease and the Ebola virus in some African countries. In this milieu, genome-sequencing - especially its more advanced avatars - could help us cope without violating the balances of nature.

(The authors are senior consultants at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation. All opinions expressed here are personal.)

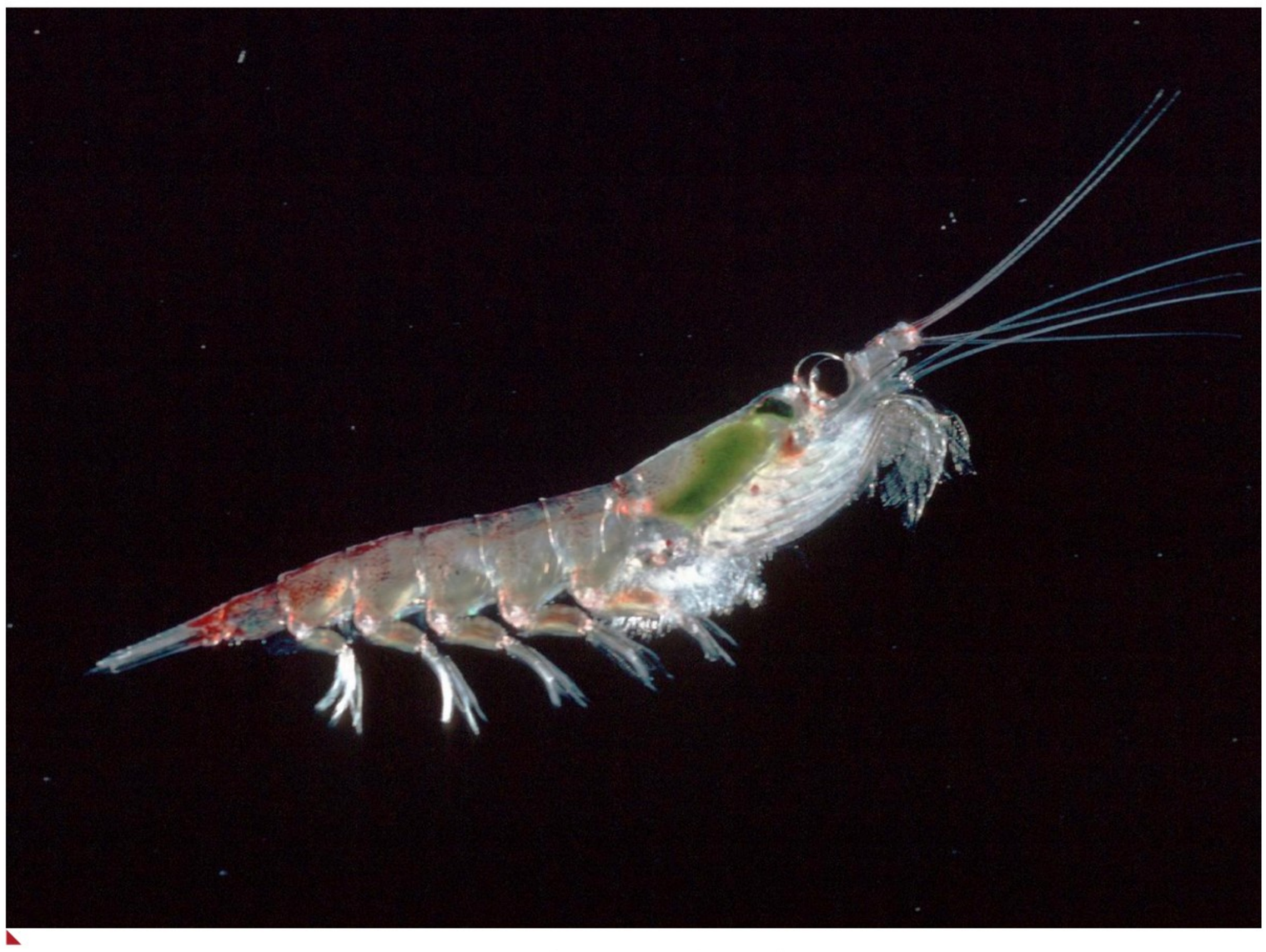
THE GIST

Bats host a wide variety of pathogens, including ones deadly to other mammals, but they themselves don't get infected. Scientists have been curious about the source of this protection

Immune-related genes have been undergoing positive selection, adapting bats to control the spread of viruses while mitigating antiviral inflammatory response. Thus bats are shielded from the effects of the clinical response of their bodies to these viruses

Genes involved in suppressing tumours and repairing DNA showed signs of positive selection. This could contribute to the bats' longer life span and a significantly lower risk of developing cancer

BIG SHOT



This photo, provided by the British Antarctic Survey, shows an Antarctic krill (*Euphausia suberba*). While krill fishing is banned in many national waters due to concerns that it could impact whales, seals, and other animals that feed on the shrimp-like creatures, it has been taking place for decades in Antarctica, where krill are most abundant. AP

WHAT IS IT?

Fluorescence: making animals glow

Vasudevan Mukunth

Matter and radiation interact in a variety of ways. The sky is blue because air molecules scatter light, and they scatter light of shorter wavelengths more strongly. Since blue light has the shortest wavelength (in the visible spectrum), it is scattered the most and the sky appears blue. This is called Rayleigh scattering. But clouds are white because of Mie scattering, which is due to light scattered by larger particles like water droplets. Another form of interaction is fluorescence – when an object absorbs some light of higher energy (like blue colour) and releases it at lower energy (like red colour). It usually happens when an electron absorbs a photon, or a particle of light, jumps to a higher energy level, before releasing that energy and jumping back down. In this process, the electron's spin must not change. If its spin changes, the process is called phosphorescence. Fluorescence has many applications. The fluorescent lamp uses an electric discharge to bombard a material with UV light. The material absorbs it and re-emits it as visible light. More curiously, scientists have been finding that the bodies of many mammals also fluoresce. A recent study reported that the bodies of animals belonging to all the known mammalian orders fluoresced in some way. Some 107 species also had fur that fluoresced. The reason for this ability remains a mystery.

An emperor scorpion fluoresces light blue under a UV lamp. JONBEEBE (CC BY-SA 3.0)

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Bescom books over 3,000 cases in three years for illegal commercial usage of domestic meters

Citizen activists say that just cracking down on illegal use of domestic meters will not yield larger results, unless the BBMP, which issues trade licences, works in tandem with Bescom

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Amidst the fight against illegal commercialisation of residential areas, in the last three years (FY 2020-21 to 2022-23) the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has collected over ₹8.49 crore in penalty from a total of 3,232 cases of consumers using domestic meters (L1 and L2) for commercial purposes.

According to officials, domestic meters are usually misused by consumers for small-scale commercial purposes. "Some people convert a portion of their house, like a shed or a garage, into small shops and use the same meter. Others set up day creches or playhomes. In some rare cases, people use it for construction purposes too," a Bescom official said.

While 541 such cases were booked in 2020-21, the number jumped to 1,536 in 2022-23. A senior Bescom official said that this rise can be attributed to the resumption of commercial activities in the post-pandemic times.

"For almost two years, commercial activities were shut down. But as they resumed, the number of violations also increased," he said. Citizens allege that electricity infrastructure is getting affected by such usage, causing inconvenience to others. "In residential areas where there should ideally be around three housing units in a building, nine units are coming up with builders setting up ground plus four floors, especially for paying guest (PG) purposes. Imagine the amount of drainage of resources, including electricity and water, from such extra units," said Zahid Javali, a resident of HSR Layout.

According to officials, domestic meters are usually misused by consumers for small-scale commercial purposes. K. MURALI KUMAR

Some citizen activists also mentioned that just cracking down on the illegal use of domestic meters will not yield larger results unless the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which issues trade licences, works in tandem with Bescom.

"Bescom does not care if it is a residential zone. They would still give commercial meters to those who wish to convert. However, the larger issue is that the civic bodies do not talk to each other. There should be a comprehensive regulation to ensure that illegal commercial activities are not legitimised," said Sneha Nandihal from I Change Indiranagar.

Commercialisation does not have to be just pubs and bars to cause inconvenience, say residents. "The BBMP is violating its own rule about not issuing trade licences on roads less than 40 feet in width. Not just breweries and restaurants, but we have recently seen the rise of these early morning/midnight biryani establishments which disturb the residents," said K. Ramesh, president, Bengaluru South Citizens' Forum.

Bescom officials said along with the creation of awareness among the public to forbid themselves from using domestic meters for commercial purposes, the vigilance teams of Bescom inspect installations in different divisions on a random basis.

Further, to crack down on such offenders, Bescom also conducts mass raids on a weekly basis and initiates legal proceedings, officials said.

After registering cases, Bescom usually disconnects power and issues notices to the consumers to get their meters converted to LT 3, along with the levying of penalties.

Fact sheet

Financial Year	2020 - 21	2021 - 22	2022 – 23
Number of cases booked	541	1,155	1,536
Penalty imposed (in ₹)	1.38 crore	3.17 crore	3.94 crore

NIA team arrests man wanted in Sri Lanka human trafficking case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Absconder Tracking Team (ATT) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Bengaluru, arrested Mohamed Imran Khan, aka Haja Najerbheeden, 30, in a Sri Lankan human trafficking case.

Imran Khan has been on the run since June 2021. The ATT monitored his movements over several months, leading to his capture from an undisclosed location in Theni district of Tamil Nadu.

During the preliminary investigation, it was learnt by the NIA that the accused, a resident of Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu, was a notorious smuggler with a history of illegal activities in the region. He was a fugitive wanted by multiple law enforcement agencies.

The case for which he was arrested by the NIA relates to when the Mangaluru South police acted on credible intelligence and revealed that a group of Sri Lankan nationals had arrived and taken shelter in Mangaluru without possessing valid documents. This operation led to the arrest of 38 Sri Lankan nationals in June 2021.

An investigation revealed that the Sri Lankan nationals were brought to Mangaluru via Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru. Recognising the international dimensions of the case, the NIA intervened and re-registered the case.

During the probe, it was revealed that Imran Khan, in collaboration with a Sri Lankan national identified as Eesan, formerly associated with the LTTE, devised a plan to illegally transport 38 Sri Lankan nationals to various locations within Tamil Nadu.

According to an NIA statement, the gang lured these individuals with false promises, including the prospect of obtaining legitimate documentation for emigration to Canada and securing employment opportunities. Imran Khan and other accused allegedly trafficked Sri Lankan nationals to various locations in Bengaluru and Mangaluru.

Investigation also revealed that Imran Khan was pivotal in a broader conspiracy involving international human trafficking. The NIA added that he acted as the main conduit responsible for transporting Sri Lankan nationals to India and subsequently to other nations. The NIA had filed a preliminary charge sheet against five accused in this case. The accused are Dhinakaran, aka Ayya, Kasi Viswanathan, Rasool, Satham Ushen, and Abdul Muheetu. So far, 13 suspects have been arraigned in the case by the NIA.

Man held on burglary charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police on Saturday arrested a man on the charge of burgling houses in Bengaluru.

The police said the accused, identified as Mohammad Asif, 24, from Venkateshpuram in Kadugondanahalli, was also wanted in other cases filed in Madanayakanahalli police station, where he is said to have stolen from two houses. The police have seized ₹8.22 lakh in cash and 137 g of gold from him.

The police said in Kamakshipalya limits, he broke into a house at Muthuraya Swamy Layout in Sunkadakatte when the owner was away.

He broke the lock and decamped with 47 grams of gold.

The police said he targeted locked houses and then broke open the lock to enter the house. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had been breaking into houses for one year.

The police are now investigating the possible involvement of more people.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of innings Shubman Gill took to reach 2,000 ODI runs

38 Indian opener Shubman Gill on Sunday became the fastest player to score 2,000 runs in ODIs during India's World Cup match against New Zealand. He broke the record of South African Hashim Amla. PTI

The number of power plants with critical coal stocks

86 These power plants, including six imported dry fuel-based, are labelled as having a critical coal stock situation, as the dry fuel there is less than 25% of the normative level. PTI

The vote secured by populist right party in Swiss elections

29 In percentage. The right-wing populist Swiss People's Party topped Switzerland's general election on Sunday, according to the first results projections for the lower house of parliament. AFP

The fall in bilateral trade between the U.S. and India

11.3 in percentage. The bilateral trade between India and the U.S. declined by 11.3% to $59.67 billion during April-September 2023 compared to the same period last year. PTI

The number of newborns at risk as fuel runs out in Gaza

120 More than 1,750 children have been killed by Israeli strikes against Gaza in retaliation for the October 7 Hamas attacks. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Have earnings grown post-pandemic?

While concerns regarding the forms of work have been extensively discussed, the aspect of earnings must also be examined to better understand the condition of the Indian labour market

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

Recent data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of 2022-23 revealed a strengthening of the labour market, with unemployment rates falling and labour force participation rates (LFPRs) rising. Rural women's LFPRs – for those aged 15 and above – rose from 19.7% in 2018-19 to 41.5% in 2022-23, a significant jump for a cohort that had long been on the margins of the labour market. These results were taken as examples of a robust post-pandemic recovery for the Indian economy.

Yet there are notes of caution. Much of the new employment generated for women has been in self-employment. There has been a rise in the proportion of women working as unpaid family helpers, with the share of rural working women in this form of employment rising from 37.9% to 43% between 2018-19 and 2022-23. The share of women in regular wage work fell from 22% to 16%. Greater employment seemed to be coming at the cost of suitable working conditions, especially for women.

While concerns regarding the forms of work have been extensively discussed, the aspect of earnings must also be examined to better understand the condition of the Indian labour market. While wages and earnings have increased, inflation has been high as well. If inflation is higher than earnings growth, real earnings reduce, reducing purchasing power.

The status of earnings

Here we will examine the real earnings of the workforce between the quarters of April-June 2019 and April-June 2023, covering the period before the onset of the pandemic and the latest period for when data is available. The PLFS collects information on the earnings of regular wage workers, casual workers and the self-employed (regular wage workers have fixed work hours and are paid on a regular basis; casual workers are employed on a daily basis on the availability of work and receive daily wages). We look at the monthly wage earnings of regular wage workers, and the gross earnings of the previous month for the self-employed. For casual workers, average daily wages are converted to monthly figures. The average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) across the months of April to June of 2019 and 2023 are taken to convert nominal figures into real terms. The earnings for urban and rural workers were deflated by the urban and rural CPI for those periods separately.

Between 2019 and 2023, only casual workers – both men and women, across both rural and urban sectors – saw a net increase in their average real monthly earnings. Women casual workers experienced a 13% increase across the entire period, while male casual workers enjoyed a 10.33% increase. The only other cohorts which saw an increase in real earnings in 2023 as compared to 2019 were women in regular wage work – a 4.27% increase – and male self-employed workers (6.9%). Significant inflation over this period ate away at the gains of workers, resulting in lesser real earnings for most workers in 2023 as compared to the pre-pandemic period.

There are significant differences between urban and rural sectors. Urban male self-employed workers saw a reduction in real earnings, while rural male self-employed workers saw real earnings increase by roughly 14.67% in 2023 compared to 2019. However, the figure for gross earnings of the self-employed do not include those who reported zero incomes, and hence these aggregate figures may not give a true picture of earnings for the entire population of the self-employed.

In the case of regular wage workers, urban women saw a reduction in earnings, with real incomes in 2023, 2.34% lesser than that in 2019. Rural women in regular wage employment earned the highest gains of all cohorts, their monthly real earnings 27.5% higher in the quarter of April-June 2023 as compared to April-June 2019. Yet this cohort makes up only 8% of the rural female workforce, and hence a smaller proportion of the aggregate workforce.

The impact of inflation

On the other hand, the biggest declines were seen in the one cohort that showed a significant rise in employment: rural women in self-employment. The share of the rural female workforce in paid forms of self-employment rose from 22% to 28% between 2018-19 and 2022-23, yet their average monthly real gross earnings reduced by 7.72%, the largest reduction for any cohort. Large numbers of rural women have entered low-paying, low-productive jobs, perhaps to supplement household incomes in the wake of the pandemic – this does not indicate robustness of recovery. Note that this excludes women engaged as helpers in household enterprises, who, by definition, do not earn any income, and who form the largest proportion of rural working women.

The moderation of inflation by 2023 saw a gradual rise in real incomes. Between 2022 to 2023, all cohorts – except, surprisingly, urban women casual workers – saw a rise in real earnings. Self-employed men enjoyed significant gains, with rural and urban men's earnings rising by 9.27% and 8.9% respectively. Rural self-employed women saw real earnings gains of 2.14%, while their urban counterparts experienced a gain of 4.2%. Wage workers – both casual and regular – did not see extensive gains, with only rural women in regular wage employment experiencing a 35.5% growth in real earnings. Urban men and women in regular wage employment experienced gains of 1.42% and 2.66% respectively.

Conclusion

While it is too soon to tell whether these gains indicate the beginning of a sustained recovery, the fact that every cohort – barring rural casual women workers – saw an increase in real earnings marks a distinct break from earlier periods. However, there is another problem. Real GDP growth between 2022 to 2023 was measured at around 7.2%. Only three cohorts experienced earnings growth faster than this: urban and rural male self-employed, and rural women in regular wage employment (the latter forming a miniscule portion of the aggregate workforce). Wage workers as a whole have seen real earnings grow slower than output, indicating a reduction in the share of wages even though growth remains healthy. This serves as further evidence of the possibility of India experiencing a K-shaped recovery in the wake of the pandemic.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University

Daily toil: Casual women workers — across both rural and urban sectors — saw a net increase in their average real monthly earnings. JOTHI RAMALINGAM. B

THE GIST

- There has been a rise in the proportion of women working as unpaid family helpers, with the share of rural working women in this form of employment rising from 37.9% to 43% between 2018-19 and 2022-23.
- Between 2019 and 2023, only casual workers — both men and women, across both rural and urban sectors — saw a net increase in their average real monthly earnings.
- Wage workers as a whole have seen real earnings grow slower than output, indicating a reduction in the share of wages even though growth remains healthy.

Has there been an increase in income?

While wages and earnings have increased, inflation has also increased. If inflation is higher than the growth of earnings, real earnings reduce

TABLE 1: REAL EARNINGS IN APRIL-JUNE 2023 RELATIVE TO APRIL-JUNE 2019

	Rural			Urban			All		
	Men	Women	Person	Men	Women	Person	Men	Women	Person
Regular wage workers	-0.92%	27.51%	2.95%	-1.75%	-2.34%	-2.30%	-3.00%	4.27%	-2.05%
Casual workers	10.82%	14.10%	10.03%	10.86%	8.11%	10.95%	10.33%	12.93%	9.64%
Self-employment	14.67%	-7.72%	5.08%	-1.62%	0.72%	-4.05%	6.90%	-9.27%	-0.76%

TABLE 2: THE RATE OF GROWTH OF REAL EARNINGS BETWEEN APRIL-JUNE 2022 AND APRIL-JUNE 2023

	Rural			Urban			All		
	Men	Women	Person	Men	Women	Person	Men	Women	Person
Regular wage workers	2.97%	35.54%	6.73%	1.42%	2.66%	1.54%	1.92%	10.24%	3.08%
Casual workers	1.21%	3.55%	0.81%	1.85%	-4.48%	1.49%	1.22%	2.27%	0.59%
Self-employment	9.27%	2.14%	4.73%	8.89%	4.20%	6.74%	8.86%	1.46%	4.70%

Struggle for kin of children with two rare diseases

They are trying to get these genetic disorders included under the Centre's National Policy for Rare Diseases as continuity of treatment can be ensured only if there is assurance of funding

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Families of two children diagnosed with the rarest of rare diseases – Infantile Hypophosphatasia and Niemann Pick – are struggling to get these genetic disorders included under the Centre's National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD). Continuity of the expensive treatment can be ensured only if there is assurance of funding, either through the government or medical insurance, as is the case in other countries, the families feel.

Both these children from Karnataka stand out as unique cases. While 16-month-old Sera Nile Fay is India's only known case of Infantile Hypophosphatasia, 14-year-old Taran is the first Neimann Pick Disease (NPD) patient put on therapy in India.

Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Benagluru is among the facilities that offer treatment for rare diseases.

Sera Nile Fay was diagnosed with Infantile Hypophosphatasia – a rare condition – when she was five months old.

She has been undergoing enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) at the State-run Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) in Bengaluru since March.

The medicines that will keep her disease at bay are very costly – around ₹2.5 crore per year – and the cost will increase as the patient gets older. Having spent ₹75 lakh so far through personal funds and crowdfunding, her parents – Michael Andrews and Teresa – are worried as her medicines will run out mid-November.

Prone to fractures

Infantile Hypophosphatasia is a rare genetic disease in which the patient's bones and teeth demineralise, making her fragile and prone to fractures. While there is no known cure, there's a chance that a pharma company could begin trials for a drug to cure the disease by the end of 2024.

Michael Andrews told *The Hindu*, "We are really looking for inclusion of this disease under the NPRD. It is crucial to continue her treatment to avoid the onset of respiratory issues and the development of rickets. However, the cost of this therapy is beyond our means. We are looking for support to help fund Sera's lifelong treatment."

"The drug procured in July will last till mid-November. We urgently need to secure the next set of enzymes, and need a minimum of ₹96 lakh for a dose that will last 5 months. As Sera is gaining weight, she needs a higher dosage," he said.

As part of their crowdfunding efforts, the toddler's parents have created a website and are also running an online Change.org/SpeakUpForSera campaign.

Taran was diagnosed with Neimann Pick Disease (NPD) when he was three years old. He has been undergoing free ERT through a pharma company's global humanitarian programme since November 2022, at IGICH and the Centre for Human Genetics (CHG). His mother Navinthara Kamath, who is leading the NPD India Charitable Organisation, said Taran is doing well with the treatment.

"We are hoping Taran will lead a normal life with the therapy, but it all depends on continuity of the treatment lifelong. We do not know till when the pharma company Sanofi will provide us the drugs for free. We urge the government to include NPD under the policy. There are 16 NPD patients in India, and Taran was the first to be put on treatment," she said.

NPD is a lysosomal storage disease (LSD) caused by acid sphingomyelinase deficiency (ASMD). The disease refers to a group of inherited metabolic disorders in which abnormal amounts of lipids (fatty materials such as waxes, oils, and cholesterol) build up in the brain, spleen, liver, lungs, and bone marrow.

Emphasising the need for greater awareness about genetic testing, both the families are grateful to Meenakshi Bhat, Associate Director at the Centre of Human Genetics and Sanjeeva G.N., professor of Paediatrics at IGICH, for proper diagnosis and treatment of their children.

Aadhaar racket case: Hebbal police grill accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hebbal police, who summoned Mounesh Kumar, one of the accused in the Aadhaar card racket that was busted on Saturday, grilled him about whom the fake ID cards were given to. The police had also issued notices to the other accused, identified as Bhagath and Raghavendra.

The complaint was filed by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police after they stumbled upon fake government ID cards during a raid at a brothel.

Upon enquiry, they found that these cards were sourced from MSL Techno Solutions run by Mounesh Kumar at Kanakanagara in RT Nagar.

Sources in the police said laptops, desktops, and mobile phones are being checked to learn how the accused was generating Aadhaar cards with dubious addresses. The case has large ramifications as illegal immigrants can be given such cards and they can easily move around the city without getting noticed, said the police.

The police are also probing the role of the other accused. In a preliminary inquiry, it was found that he was being assisted by the two others and detailed investigation will throw more light on their role.

BBMP shuts down 10 more establishments, including a rooftop restaurant

The BBMP crackdown began after fire erupted at Mudpipe Cafe, a hookah bar in Koramangala. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike on Sunday shut down 10 establishment, including one rooftop restaurant in J.P. Nagar, as the civic body's crackdown on pubs, bars, and restaurants entered the third day.

The BBMP so far closed down 43 food and beverage establishments across eight zones in the city. There are a total of 1,118 establishments which were given trade licences by the BBMP. The BBMP has so far inspected 669 and on Sunday 157 establishments were inspected to check violations of trade licence conditions.

The crackdown began after fire erupted at Mudpipe Cafe, a hookah bar in Koramangala. The condition of the injured remains critical and he was admitted to Apollo Hospital.

During a visit by the Fire and BBMP officials to the site it was found that the cafe owner was given licence for catering food but he was illegally serving hookah to customers.

According to the data shared by the BBMP on Sunday, notices were served to 74 establishments. The total number of notices issued so far has touched 327.

BBMP allocates ₹15 lakh each to 225 wards to fill potholes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has allocated ₹15 lakh each to 225 wards to fill potholes and the work will commence from November. The ward committee will monitor the works.

The allocation was reduced by ₹5 lakh compared to previous year. The BBMP had given ₹20 lakh to every ward last year and there is no explanation given as to why the allocation was deducted.

A source in the BBMP said the government has asked the civic body to spend the money judiciously as there is a lack of funds and that could be the reason why allocation was cut. But with ₹15 lakh, potholes can be filled and filling 1 sqm will cost about ₹1,200, sources pointed out.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar has also directed the BBMP to display boards where constructions are under way with detail.

If the citizens find any fault during the course of work they file a complaint with the BBMP and action will be initiated.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, INDIRA P, (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next–of–Kin POR/ Service Documents), spouse of Official No. 1375189Y, Rank Retd, HAV Name : P DEVENDRA REDDY (Name of Husband) resident of NO. 243, Chelekere, Opp SLN Water Supply Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore 560043 (Address) have changed my Name from INDIRA (Existing Name of spouse) as per change of Next–of–kin POR/Service Document) to INDIRA P, (proposed/ adopted New Name) vide Affidavit dated 19/10/2023 at Bangalore.

I, VIJAYA Kumari also called as Vijayalakshmi wife of Ananda service No.1342808 residing at No.3687, 9th Cross,13th "D" Main, Near Doopanahalli Ground, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name from Vijaya Kumari also called as Vijayalakshmi to N.Vijayalakshmi and corrected Date of Birth from 1955 to 02-01-1958 vide affidavit dated 20/10/2023 before Notary Public A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, SHAIK Ahmed Jan Parya Jan R/o #31, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, L B S Nagar, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017 have changed my name from Shaik Ahmed Jan Parya Jan to Shaik Ahmed Jan vide affidavit dt: 20-10-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore.

I, Rita Ullas Adhikari W/o Ullas Harikant Adhikari R/o #006f, Aratt Royal Castle, Manipal County Rd, Singasandra B'luru 560068 have changed my name to Ritaben Ullasbhai Adhikari for all purposes.

I, Jayalakshmamma W/O, K V Lakshminarayana Gupta R/o Koratagere have changed my name to Jayalakshmi.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 26517/2021
BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramod G., Aged about 45 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND
1. M/s. Golden Chariat Public School
Bellahalli Circle, Hegde Nagar Main Road, M S Nagar, Bangalore-560064.
2. Mr. Srikanth A
Aged Major
1665, AMC Main Road, Near Government Hospital Samadana Nagar Kodugodanahalli, Bangalore-560016 **...DEFENDANT**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 9,51,080.70/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Eighty and Paisa Seventy Only)** apart from future interest of 10.01%, in **O.S.No. 26517/2021** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 74** Before Addl. City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **22nd** day of **November, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **19th** day of **October, 2023**.
By the order of court Deputy Registrar, City Civil, Court Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 99, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGAORE (CCH- 22)
O.S. No. 25810/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
...PLAINTIFF
AND :
1. MR. B. PRASHANTH REDDY S/o Mr. Bathini Janardhan Reddy, Aged 30 years, No. 189, 2nd Floor, Sai Sri Mens Per, MTB Enclave Garudacharpalaya, Bangalore-560048. **...DEFENDANT**
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,90,059.79/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Ninety Thousand and Fifty Nine paisa Seventy Nine Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25810/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 22,** Before 13th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **29th day of November, 2023** at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **16th day of October, 2023.**
By the Order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall Bengaluru- 560001
FX & Co. ADVOCATE New No. 99 Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560005

IN THE COURT OF 13th CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 22)
O.S. No. 25785/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
...PLAINTIFF
AND
1. MR. SANTHOSH V. S/o Mr. Hanmegowda, Aged about 42 years, 42, Akahaya Kalyana Layout 2nd Main Road, Near Amma Ashrama Bhuvaneshwari Nagar Janabharathi, Bangalore Bangalore- 560056.
...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 11,07,813.03 (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen and Paisa Three Only)** apart from future interest of 24%,P.a. in **O.S. No. 25785/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 22** Before 13th Addl. City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **29th** day of **November, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **16th** day of **October, 2023**.
By the order of court Deputy Registrar, City Civil, Court Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 99, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005

IN THE COURT OF THE LV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
O.S No. 2589/2023
Hg. 28/11/2023
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Rahul Mangalam ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Rahul Mangalam
S/o. Ashok Kumar, Aged About 27 Years, R/at No.1572, K Street Teachers Colony, 3rd Block Kalyan Nagar, Near Hotel Brindavan, Bangolore- 560043
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 3,11,436.32/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LV Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-56), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **28.11.2023** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **11th** day of **October, 2023** at Bengaluru .
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALI, AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
O.S. No. 25402/2022
Hg. 05/12/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G., Aged about 45 years, S/o. Gurumallappa
V/s.
Mr. Harish Kumar N. & Anr.
Summons to Defendants No. 01 and 02
1. Mr. Harish Kumar N.
S/o. Mr. Nagaraju
Aged 32 years
Motton Market, Ward No. 17, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore- 562114.
2. Mrs. Gowramma M.
W/o. Mr. Nagaraju,
Aged 58 years,
Motton Market, Ward No.17, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore- 562114.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.12,96,827.62/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven and paisa Sixty Two Only)** apart from future interest of 13.02% & 9.25% in **O.S. No. 25402/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 58**, before 57th Addl. City Civil Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **05th** day of **December, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **18th** day of **October, 2023.**
By the order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-74)
O.S. No. 25697/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
1. MR. B. MANJUNATH S/o. Mr. Boralinga, Aged 44 years, No. 523, 20th Cross, Aravinda Nagara, Kuvempunagar Mysore. **...DEFENDANTS**
Summons to Defendants
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 3,22,584.33 (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four and Paisa Thirty Three Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25697/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 74,** Before 73rd Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 22nd day of **November, 2023** at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 19th day of October, 2023.
By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF O. A No.1072/2022
Between :
ICICI Bank Ltd. **...Applicant**
Versus
Yesteam Security and Man Power Services and Others
...Defendants
SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION
DEFENDANTS :
1. Yesteam Security and Man Power Service Private Limited, A company incorporated under the provision of Companies Act, 1956, Having its registered office at No. 82, 1st A Main Cross, Sadashivangar, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural CIN No. U74920KA2012PTC062233 Pan NO. AAACY5230B
2. Gopal Krishna K.R. Son of Rangappa K.L. 09, Karekal Palya, Mallarbanavadi Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka PAN No. AMIPG600IF
3. Ravi Kumar Son of Hanumanthe Gowda, Hanchipura, Mallarabanavadi, Near AshwathKatte (09, Karekalpalya) Bengaluru Rural, Karanataka- 562123 PAN : BFOPR5775K
WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of Rs. 48,63,670.48/- (Rupees Forty-Eight Lakhs Sixty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventy and Forty-Eight Paise Only) together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.
You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **27/02/2024** at **11.00 A.M** in person or by pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this12th day of October,2023
By order of the Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH-74)
O.S. No. 25788/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
1. MR. RAJATH K.A.
S/o. Mr. Anil Kumar,
Aged 28 years, 3847/7, 4th Cross, Subramanya Nagar, Rajaji Nagar, 2nd Stage Sirirampuram Bangalore-560021 **...DEFENDANT**
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has Civil filed Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 6,06,844.50/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four and Paisa Fifty Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in O.S. No.25788/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 74, Before Addl., City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 28th day of November, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the th suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 19th day of October, 2023
By the order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-62)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 3603 OF 2021
BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., Mythre Center 4/10, Hosur Road Bommanahalli Bangalore-560068 And represented by its POA Holder and Manager Mr. Pramodh G. S/o Gurumallappa, **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
SMT. RAZIA SULTANA ...DEFENDANT
To,
Defendant:
SMT. RAZIYA SULTANA
aged about 34 years, wife of Abdul Kadhar Shaik R/at. Flat No.11, 1st Floor, Seef Residency Plot No.74 Royal Lake Front Residency, Near Mariyammadavi Temple J.P. Nagar 8th Phase Bangalore-560078
Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs.11,90,944/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Ninty Thousand Nine Hundred And Forty Four Only) as on together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **22/11/2023** at **11:00 am** to show cause against the suit, and Failing wharein the suit be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 23th day of September, 2023.
By the order of the court Assistant Registrar City Civil Court Bengaluru
Adocates for Plaintiff S.M. ANEES AHEMED, B.M. KUSHALAPPA, Advocates, No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: Leaking Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL &SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
O. S No. 6385/2022
Hg. 22/11/2023
Between :
M/S. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Nilesh Kumar Ranjan, ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Nilesh Kumar Ranjan, S/o. Geetasah, Aged About 33 Years, R/at No. 07, Sri Swami Ayyappa Temple, Gottigere, Bannerghatta Road, Near Water Tank Bangalore-560083.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 6,68,590.58/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-56), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 22/11/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 13th day of October, 2023 at Bengaluru.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

IN THE COURT OF THE XVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-10)
O.S. NO. 6126/2022
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Damodhar S. **...Defendant**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Damodhar S.
S/o. Sri Rangadhama, Aged About 41 Years, Residing No. 21, K No. 25, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross Naganathapura, E-City Post, Bangalore- 560100
Permanently residing at :
No. 303, Kittaganahalli, Bommasandra in Dr Area Near Hennagara Gate, Bangalore- 560099.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.6,53,475.53/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-10), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 18.01.2024 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 13th day of October 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

CACHE

A street sign for Wall Street is seen outside the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City, on July 19, 2021. REUTERS

Why Wall Street firms using messaging apps are coming under regulatory probe

Why is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigating Wall Street investment company employees' chat messages? Did the pandemic increase dependence of investment employees on end-to-end encrypted messaging channels?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is investigating Wall Street investment company employees' chat messages to confirm how widely they used personal messaging apps such as Meta's WhatsApp, privacy-focused Signal, or Apple's iMessage to discuss business. The regulator collected thousands of such messages from employees working at more than 10 investment companies, according to a *Reuters* report.

Why is the SEC collecting Wall Street firms' WhatsApp messages?

Like many regulators, the SEC expects U.S.-based finance companies to keep and preserve their employees' electronic communication. Legacy communication platform providers like Microsoft and Google offer enterprise products tailored to meet these very needs. But when employees from different parts of the company's hierarchy use personal or "off-channel" methods of communicating with each other or discuss work through these platforms, the integrity of the company's communication records is impacted, according to the SEC.

During the pandemic years, as employees worldwide adapted to work-from-home or hybrid work patterns, a number of them began using personal messaging apps and services for work-related reasons. While this may seem innocuous, employees in large investment companies – such as Wall Street firms – could end up losing or deleting vital business information that the SEC and other legal authorities might demand as evidence in potential legal cases or investigations in the future. "To date, the Commission has brought 30 enforcement actions and ordered over $1.5 billion in penalties to drive this foundational message home," said Gurbir S. Grewal, Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement, in an August 8 notice, urging firms to "self-report, cooperate and remediate."

In the latest case reported by *Reuters*, some of the targeted companies include Carlyle, Apollo, KKR, TPG, and Blackstone. In a sign that the SEC is hardening its stance, the regulator may review the thousands of collected employee messages rather than hitting the company with a fine and entrusting them to manage their employees' workplace communication hygiene through internal reviews or an independent consultant. The SEC has not commented on its actions yet or confirmed it charged more companies over record keeping failures.

Has the SEC fined companies over this issue before?

Since around 2021, the SEC has taken action against companies over their employees using personal messaging apps to discuss work, or them exchanging work messages through apps on personal devices.

On August 8 this year, the SEC charged 11 Wall Street firms for "widespread and longstanding failures by the firms and their employees to maintain and preserve electronic communications." The firms agreed to pay combined penalties of $289 million and improve their communication processes to comply with the SEC's record keeping requirements. The SEC said that from 2019, the firms' employees used apps such as iMessage, WhatsApp, and Signal to discuss their employer's business.

"The firms did not maintain or preserve the substantial majority of these off-channel communications, in violation of the federal securities laws. By failing to maintain and preserve required records, certain of the firms [sic] likely deprived the Commission of these off-channel communications in various SEC investigations. The failures involved employees at multiple levels of authority, including supervisors and senior executives," said the regulator on its website.

On September 29, the SEC charged 10 firms that included broker-dealers and investment advisers for "widespread and longstanding failures to maintain and preserve electronic communications." These companies also agreed to pay combined penalties of $79 million and improve their communication processes.

Some companies that were charged for record keeping failures through this year include Wells Fargo Securities, LLC., HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., Barclays Capital Inc., Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC., Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc., and Perella Weinberg Partners LP.

Could video meetings be next?

Senior executives at major finance companies are also concerned that the SEC will next demand records of work-related video meetings, which are usually treated quite casually by companies, reported *Reuters* on October 18.

Such meetings shot up in frequency as the COVID-19 virus raged through the world, with many interactions taking place on Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

Some companies have started recording and preserving these sessions for compliance purposes, as per the *Reuters* report.

Meanwhile, HSBC, which has been charged by the SEC in the past, is not letting certain employees send texts using their work phone, *Bloomberg* reported this week.

Why do end-to-end encrypted messages and apps worry regulators?

Record keeping requirements come under multiple parts of U.S. law. For example, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 have record keeping provisions which the SEC needs to uphold. However, when dealing with work-related messages sent through apps like WhatsApp and Signal, which have end-to-end encryption, legal bodies may find it difficult to access these messages quickly, or even know that they exist. This will make it far more difficult for them to build airtight cases or submit evidence, in the event of a potential legal incident.

Additionally, seizing personal devices/apps to look at work-related messages can lead to the regulator being accused of overstepping limits or even violating people's privacy rights. These are some of the reasons why the SEC wants high-level finance company employees to keep work talk restricted to workplace apps and devices.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With October 24 being United Nations Day, here is a quiz related to the institution

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Which country was the most recent entrant as a member of the United Nations in 2011? How many total member nations are part of the United Nations today?

QUESTION 2

Name the country that remains the first and only nation to withdraw its membership from the United Nations (it later re-joined the organisation). What was the reason offered?

QUESTION 3

This person was the secretary of the 1955 Bandung conference that led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement. Later on, he went on to become the first non-Scandinavian diplomat to take up the post of UN Secretary-General. Name him.

QUESTION 4

Which former UN Secretary-General remains the only posthumous recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize? He was the recipient in which year?

QUESTION 5

What is being described here (partially) - "..representing an azimuthal equidistant projection centred on the North Pole, inscribed in a wreath consisting of crossed conventionalised branches of the olive tree, in gold on a field of smoke-blue with all water areas in white".

Visual question:
Name this person who leads the largest UN peacekeeping mission today? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the October 20 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The Sydney Opera House was funded like this. **Ans: By lottery. It cost $102 million to complete the building.**
2. This individual is considered to be the first Aboriginal man to visit Europe and return. **Ans: Woollarawarre Bennelong**
3. There are 1,056,006 of this on the roof of the Opera House. **Ans: The 'Sydney Tile', a 120mm square made from clay with a small percentage of crushed stone**
4. This was said by who: "The human spirit must sometimes take wings or sails, and create something that is not just utilitarian or commonplace." **Ans: Queen Elizabeth II during the inaugural ceremony**
5. This is how civil rights activist Paul Robeson is connected to the Opera House. **Ans: In 1960, before the construction had even begun, he climbed the scaffolding and sang 'Ol' Man River' to the workers**
Visual: Name this individual. **Ans: Danish architect Jorn Utzon**
Early Bird: K. N. Viswanathan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

You need to adapt to the new city

He is a good man. He adopted all the three children as they lost their parents in the war

S. Upendran

What is the difference in meaning between 'adopt' and 'adapt'? (C. Narayanan, Bengaluru)

The only thing common between these two verbs is that they both have the stress on the second syllable. When we hear the word 'adopt', we immediately think of children. Childless couples, often adopt children. When people adopt a child, they take the child as it is. They do not ask that the child's eyes be made bigger, the face rounder, etc. The child is taken as it is. Similarly, when you adopt somebody's plan, you make use of the original plan; you do not make any changes.

Given how different our companies are, you'll find it difficult to adopt our plans.

The word 'adapt' has a slightly different meaning from 'adopt'. When you 'adapt' someone's plan, what you are doing is making changes to it; you make adjustments so that it becomes more suitable for you and the situation you are in. Like 'adopt', the word 'adapt' can be used with people as well. For example, when people go abroad, they need to adjust or adapt to the new place. One way of achieving this, is by making deliberate changes in their life style – wearing different types of clothes, changing their daily routine, etc.

Let's adapt some of the recommendations he's made.

Why do we always have to 'beg' for someone's pardon? (R. Rajesh, Coimbatore)

The expression 'beg your pardon' is used by native speakers of English in different contexts. For example, if you step on someone's foot, you say, 'I beg your pardon'. In this context, the expression means 'I'm sorry'. Similarly, when you are unable to hear what someone is saying, you can say, 'I beg your pardon'; in this case, you are requesting him to repeat what he just said. The word 'beg' has several different meanings; one of them is 'ask for'. Therefore, when you 'beg someone's pardon', you are asking for his pardon. You are not begging like a beggar, but merely requesting the individual that you be pardoned for the mistake you have made.

What is the meaning of 'divorceary'? (Vinod Kumar, Indore)

Let's begin by learning the pronunciation of this recently coined word. The vowel in the first and last syllable sounds like the 'i' in 'sit', 'kit' and 'lit'; the second syllable rhymes with 'horse', 'course' and 'force'. It is possible to pronounce the 'a' like the 'a' in 'china'; many people, however, choose to drop this vowel. One simple way of pronouncing the word is 'di-VOS-ri' with the stress on the second syllable. Some people pronounce it 'di-VO-se-ri'. We all know what a wedding anniversary is. A 'divoreceary' is the opposite of a wedding anniversary! The individual celebrates the anniversary of his divorce!

I'm celebrating my five-year divorceary.
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Lugubrious:

excessively mournful

Synonyms: gloominess, sadness

Usage: *A lugubrious old man kept sighing to himself.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/lugubriouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /luːˈgʊ(j)uːbɹi.əs/, /lʊˈgʊ(j)uːbɹi.əs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 23		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:57
RISE	13:53	SET 00:38
TUESDAY, OCT. 24		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:56
RISE	14:40	SET 01:40
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25		
RISE	06:11	SET 17:56
RISE	15:26	SET 02:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be mostly dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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No festive cheer for tomato growers; virus attack adds to farmers' problems

The current price of a box of the produce (15 kg) is just ₹50 to ₹120 at the Kolar APMC. Even in Bengaluru markets, tomato costs ₹15 to ₹25 per kg depending on the size

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

People shop on the eve of Dasara and Ayudha Puja in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

After experiencing record highs, even the beginning of festivities has not brought any relief for tomato growers as the current price for a box of tomato is just ₹50 to ₹120 at the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee (APMC).

Earlier around July, the price of tomato hit a record high of over ₹2,300 for a box (of 15 kg) at the APMC in Kolar. At markets in Bengaluru, the selling price was anywhere between ₹100 and ₹150 per kg for many weeks. However, despite the ongoing festive season, even in Bengaluru markets, tomato costs ₹15 to ₹25 per kg depending on the size of the produce.

"During Dasara, the price of tomato should have been at least ₹40 to 50 per kg. But the supply is so rich that on some days, we cannot empty the stocks," said Ramamurthy, a vendor in Yelahanka.

With an increased flow of tomato to the market, the prices have failed to rise in the last few weeks.

"There are a lot of tomatoes in the market, mostly coming from Andhra Pradesh and other States. Their quality is better when compared to ours and they are selling a box for more than ₹120 to ₹150. However, here on an average, the selling price is ₹60 to ₹90. After losing ₹20 lakh in the previous years, I had made ₹8 lakh this year with tomato. But now, it looks like a loss again," said Venkat Reddy, a tomato farmer from Chintamani taluk in Kolar district.

Several other farmers also flagged similar issues. According to them, the selling price for this season should have been anywhere between ₹400 and ₹500 per box. However, they also believe that the prices will go up again due to the attack of leaf curl disease in the major vegetable growing district of Kolar.

"From the last 20 to 25 days, the attack of leaf curl disease (bingi roga) has caused many tomato crops to wither away. We are not getting much help from the scientists to tackle this problem. If this trend continues, after November 15, the price will rise again," said Manjunath, another tomato farmer from Srinivaspura taluk in Kolar district.

Amidst the highs and lows of the prices, the biggest worry of farmers seems to be the diseases which have afflicted the crop.

"In the last five years, the tomato crops in Kolar have been affected by Anthracnose, late blight, and potassium deficiency and now, leaf curl disease. The Horticulture Department officials, after seeking expert advice from Bagalkot, have concluded that the diseases are a result of weather changes. However, they have not guided the farmers about the management of diseases," said Nalini Gowda A., a farmers' leader from Kolar.

"If these diseases continue, in the next two years, no one will be able to cultivate tomatoes in Kolar," she added.

However, the officials of the Horticulture Department said that farmers are being guided about the steps they need to take.

"Our officials there have issued advisories regarding the disease. As for the price fluctuation, despite our repeated warnings to not immediately switch crops, farmers chose to grow tomatoes in higher quantities due to the increased price this year. Hence, they are not able to get good prices now," said Ramesh D.S, Director, Horticulture Department.

Four held on kidnapping charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police arrested four persons for allegedly kidnapping a businessman and attempting to extort money from him.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Kasim Sait, Shabeer, Shoaib, and Muzaffar, barged into a mobile shop and told the owner that they had a tip-off that he had been selling drugs.

The accused then kidnapped him and took him to an isolated place. There the accused demanded ₹5 lakh from him saying that he had to pay the money to close the case. However, the businessman refused to pay the money saying he did not have cash.

The accused let him go. He a complaint at the V.V. Puram police station.

Prices of lemon and ash gourd skyrocket

Vishal V.P.
BENGALURU

Higher demand for lemons, ash gourds, and flowers ahead of Mahanavami and Vijayadashami has led to the prices of these festival essentials, along with a few other fruits, skyrocket in Bengaluru.

Most vendors pointed out that a low supply owing to weather-induced reasons and an increased demand have become a pattern this festive season.

Shiv Kumar, a vendor in Kodihalli, said: "Due to an increase in demand for lemons and ash gourds which are used for puja, their prices have gone up from ₹80 per dozen to ₹150 to ₹200 per dozen and ₹40 per kg to ₹50 to ₹60 per kg respectively. Banana plants now cost between ₹55 and ₹60 per piece, up from about ₹30 to ₹35 previously. We purchase these things at exorbitant costs, which occasionally affects our profit margins."

Lokesh Reddy, owner of a flower and vegetable shop in Koramangala, said: "Popular flowers like rose, jasmine, kanakambra, marigold, and sevanthige (chrysanthemums) previously cost between ₹60 and ₹90 per kg and now they are selling for ₹200 and ₹300. We frequently find ourselves with little time to negotiate because of the flood of customers at this time".

Some vendors, like Shanta in Halasuru market, complained that the increased prices have kept customers from purchasing higher quantities. "Upon realising the higher prices, people frequently buy less than normal, even though they still make purchases. For many stores, this year has been really slow," she noted.

Dasara air show rehearsal regales crowd

The rehearsal of the Dasara air show being held in Mysuru on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The rehearsal of Dasara air show regaled the crowd that had packed the Bannimantap Torch Light Parade grounds on Sunday evening.

The aerial daredevilry performed by Surya Kiran Aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) over Bannimantap grounds during the demonstration held the spectators in rapt attention.

A large number of residents in areas in the vicinity of Bannimantap grounds took went up to their terraces to watch the fighter jets whistle past, letting out a thundering sound before creating attracting formations in the skies of Mysuru. The metal birds will take to the skies again on Monday evening when the air show will begin at 4 p.m. atop Bannimantap Grounds.

The fighter jets performing jaw-dropping aerobatic daredevilry have returned to Mysuru after a gap of four years for the Dasara air show.

After the air show held during Dasara 2019, the demonstration had been cancelled in view of the outbreak of COVID-19.

The Dasara air show in Mysuru during the ensuing festivities was preceded by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah calling upon Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with a formal request to facilitate the air show during Dasara this year.

Unlike the rehearsals of the air show on Sunday when spectators were allowed into the Bannimantap grounds without passes, entry for the air show scheduled for Monday evening will be through passes.

After the air show, the rehearsals of Torch Light Parade will be held at the same venue at 7 p.m. on Monday.

A note issued by the Mysuru district administration has made it clear that entry into Bannimantap grounds for the air show and rehearsals of Torch Light Parade scheduled for Monday evening will be only through passes issued by the office of City Police Commissioner.

Little Ice Age was wet, not uniformly cold and dry: Study

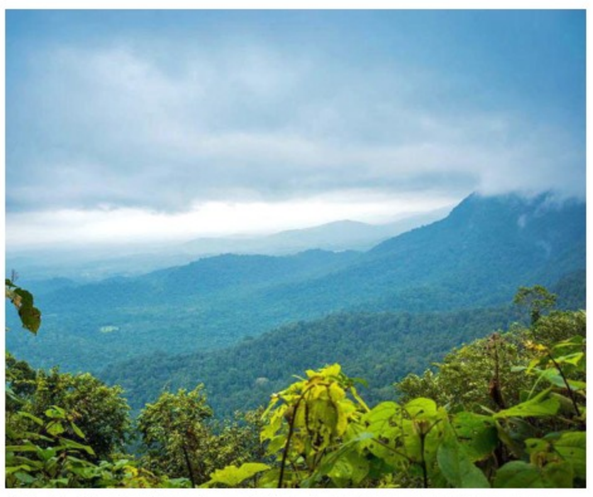
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new study of the Little Ice Age (LIA), a global climatic event between CE 1671-1942, has revealed that the age was wet and not uniformly cold and dry.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, the study of the LIA, shows significant variations of rainfall patterns during that age, and challenges the conventional notion of a uniformly cold and dry climate with reduced monsoon rainfall during the LIA.

"The Western Ghats experiences both the southwest summer monsoon (SWM) during June to September and the north-east winter monsoon (NEM) during October to December. Understanding the vegetation dynamics and corresponding hydro-climate variability from such an area, which was influenced by both the SWM and NEM, could be crucial in understanding the monsoonal variability during the last millennium," states the department.

A study of pollen-based vegetation dynamics and contemporary climate change and monsoonal variability between CE 1219-1942 was reconstructed from the Western Ghats, by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, an autonomous institute of the department.



A study of pollen-based vegetation dynamics and contemporary climate change and monsoonal variability between CE 1219-1942 was reconstructed from the Western Ghats, by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The scientists scouted core sediment samples from the Honnamanakere Lake in Karnataka and analysed pollen accumulated in them to reconstruct the vegetation-based climate change and monsoonal variability during CE 1219-1942 from the Western Ghats.

"It showed the record of moist (wet) LIA.Moist/semi-evergreen-dry tropical deciduous forests were mainly recorded from the study area," the department said.

Their study published in the journal *Catena* showed that record of the signature of moist conditions during (LIA from the Western Ghats, India, probably due to the increased NEM.

"The high-resolution palaeo-climatic records generated in the present study could be helpful in developing paleo-climatic models for future climatic predictions and also for a scientifically sound policy planning. Knowledge and understanding of the climate change and the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) variability during the Holocene could be of immense interest to strengthen the understanding of the present ISM-influenced climatic conditions, as well as of possible future climatic trends and projections," the department added.

From Page One

Grand Mysuru Dasara finale tomorrow

A tableau that is being readied for the Dasara procession which will be held in Mysuru on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

The tableaux portray the rich culture and tradition of the land, which will be showcased in the presence of lakhs of people who are eagerly awaiting the show. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will flag off the procession after the Nandi Dhwaja puja at the Kote Anjaneya Swamy Temple. This will be followed by the display of the State's cultural diversity. Later, the Chief Minister will shower flowers on the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru, placed in the 750-kilo golden howdah mounted on the tusker that marks Jamboo Savari.

This is the most awaited moment of the Vijayadashami procession as Abhimanyu, accompanied by Kumki elephants, carries the howdah in magnificence amidst the cheering crowds. In the evening, the torchlight parade will be held at Bannimantap grounds.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the October 23 edition, we have a story on various proposals for a third airport after reopening the old HAL Airport, since KIA is expected to exceed its structural capacity in less than 10 years.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

EXCELLENCE AWARD TO SCHOOL

Eurokids, J P Nagar and Skalvi International School, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, received the 'Best Pre-school and Academic Excellence in CBSE schools for All Round Development in Bengaluru' at the India Excellence Awards 2023. R Sunder Raju, Sagar Raju and Satish Kakal received the award from cricketer Sunil Manohar Gavaskar at a function held in Delhi.

EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS

Young World Club is a fun-filled online edutainment portal from The Hindu, packed with rich multimedia content to make learning exciting. Updated every week, it offers children new ways to learn through its interactive sections on Think, Read, Do, Travel, Play, and Change. The content is presented in various interactive formats such as quizzes, crosswords, sliders, puzzles, dialog cards, flash cards, presentations, videos, games, timelines, and so on. Curated for children of age groups 8-11 (Juniors), 12-15 (Seniors), parents and teachers, this web platform offers children new ways to understand diverse topics.

YOUNG WORLD CLUB.com from THE HINDU GROUP

To subscribe, log on to **ywc.thehindu.com/plans** and use promo code **YWC50** to get **50% discount** on annual subscription. ~~₹399~~ ₹199 only

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 998196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Sensitive ecosystem in Cauvery's birthplace cries for attention amidst 42% deficit in southwest monsoon

Commercialisation and decline in rainfed cultivation of paddy in Kodagu are adding to Cauvery's woes as paddy fields were acting like micro reservoirs with water being impounded for 3 to 4 months

B.S. Satish Kumar
KODAGU

The dwindling storage in Karnataka's Cauvery basin reservoirs owing to drought prevailing in the State has caused concerns in the downstream areas, besides typically escalating the legal tussle over inter-State sharing of the river water. But the plight of the sensitive ecosystem of Kodagu, which is the main catchment area as well as place of origin of the river, is yet to get due attention.

This tiny hilly district located in the pristine Western Ghats region should receive good rains if the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir, located in the downstream, has to get adequate inflow to take care of irrigation requirement of farmers in command areas and drinking water needs of towns and cities in the basin, including Bengaluru. Also, the State's experience has shown that the inter-State sharing of Cauvery water does not get complicated when there are good rains in Kodagu.

Partly abandoned rainfed paddy cultivation fields at Nallur, near Gonikoppa, in Kodagu district, which is part of a micro reservoir system that sustains the ecosystem of Kodagu and Cauvery river. K. MURALI KUMAR

A rainfall measuring instrument at a coffee plantation in Kodagu district. (Below) Scientist C.G. Kushalappa. K. MURALI KUMAR

Rainfall pattern

This year, Kodagu district has reported a cumulative rainfall deficit of 42% during southwest monsoon that ended on September 30 as against the State's average deficit of 25%. In fact, the deficit was as high as 80% in June and 82% in August in this district.

This deficit would not just impact the ecosystem of the district, but the flow of river in the entire Cauvery basin that transcends State boundaries.

While legal experts are worried about dwindling storage in KRS, naturalists well-versed with the Kodagu landscape are concerned about decline in rain-fed paddy cultivation in Kodagu which they say is a micro reservoir system that sustains the ecosystem of Kodagu and the Cauvery river.

"We have an age-old practice of cultivating paddy in the valleys with the help of rainwater. These paddy fields act like small ponds as we impound rainwater in them for three to four months. These paddy fields will feed streams and rivulets which in turn strengthen tributaries of Cauvery. But the cause of concern now is that cultivation of paddy has reduced by nearly 50%," says C.G. Kushalappa, scientist and retired dean of College of Forestry in Ponnampet, who has studied the ecosystem of Kodagu for over 35 years.

According to him, farmers are shunning paddy mainly because it is not remunerative. The high labour cost and man-animal conflict near the Nagarahole National Park are also forcing them to shun paddy cultivation.

Another major reason for shunning the paddy cultivation is rapid commercialisation which is making farmers to either sell off or take up construction activities on paddy fields which are more suited for construction than the slopes, he observes.

Expressing concern that shunning paddy cultivation is affecting particularly the summer flow of Cauvery river as well as the Kodagu ecosystem, he suggests that the government revive rain-fed paddy cultivation by providing an incentive of ₹10,000 an acre. The government, NGOs and corporates should join hands in this endeavor, he suggests.

Pointing out that farmers near the national park have completely shunned paddy cultivation due to man-animal conflict, he suggests building community fences for the entire villages. He has also mooted the idea of bringing a law to impose checks and balances on selling away the paddy lands for commercial purposes.

"If the government wants continued flow of Cauvery even during summer, then the need of the hour is to demonstrate sustainable development model involving paddy cultivation backed by incentive in a couple of villages so that others too would get attracted," says Dr. Kushalappa.

He particularly opposes indiscriminate commercialisation in this hot tourist destination and refers to previous years' episodes of landslips in the areas that witnessed intense commercialisation and construction activities.

Former member of Coffee Board of India and an expert on coffee industry as well as Kodagu ecosystem, Bose Mandanna too expresses concern over rapid commercialisation that is affecting the ecosystem in sensitive zones of Kodagu. "People from outside invest in land here for commercial purposes. This has resulted in huge constructions coming up on ecologically sensitive areas. We saw its impact in 2019 when landslides were witnessed in several sensitive zones of Kodagu when it rained 40 inches in a single day," he recalls.

"It is okay to allow conversion of agricultural land for construction for residential purposes. But conversion of agricultural land for large constructions like big resorts should not be allowed. It is not wise to allow such huge constructions atop hills," he says.

Kodagu unit president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Manu Somaiah, says "Kodagu being a tourist destination, outsiders show a lot of interest in buying land here for commercial purposes. Politicians too are buying lands here in others' names (*benami* ownership)."

One more BJP ticket fraud surfaces in Vijayanagara dist.

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Police register FIR against two BJP leaders for allegedly taking ₹2.03 crore from a retired Assistant Executive Engineer of Public Works Department

Even before the BJP ticket fraud involving Hindutva activist Chaitra and others could fade away from public memory, another similar scam has come to light from Hagaribommanahalli in Vijayanagara district.

Following a complaint lodged by C. Shivamurthy, a retired Assistant Executive Engineer of Public Works Department, the Kottur police have registered an FIR against Revanasiddappa, 55, and Shekhar N.P., 45, under Indian Penal Code Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 34 (criminal act done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention).

As per the complaint, Revanasiddappa, a BJP leader from Benakanahalli village in Kottur taluk of Vijayanagara district, approached the complainant at the latter's residence in Kottur and showed him his photos with some State BJP leaders to make the complainant believe that he had good connections. The accused also assured the complainant of getting BJP ticket for Hagaribommanahalli constituency (reserved for Scheduled Castes) for him to contest the Assembly Elections.

Revanasiddappa then took Mr. Shivamurthy to a hotel in Bengaluru and introduced him to Shekhar, another BJP leader from Puttur in Dakshina Kannada. Both Revanasiddappa and Shekhar assured Shivamurthy of getting him ticket for money. Mr. Shivamurthy alleged that the accused took ₹2.03 crore between October 9, 2022, and April 30, 2023, from him on the promise of ticket.

"We have received a complaint. The investigation is on and we are tracking the accused," Shrihari Babu B.L., Superintendent of Police, Vijayanagara told *The Hindu*.

Modi calls Bommai to enquire about his health

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is recuperating after a cardiac surgery, to enquire about his health.

Taking to social media to respond to the Prime Minister's gesture, Mr. Bommai said: "Today is Shubha Ashtami and my most luckiest day. While I am taking rest, our beloved Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a telephone call to enquire about my health. My heartiest thanks to our most respected PM. His concern and blessings has boosted my self confidence. I will get well soon and return to serve people.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Rajneesh Goel tipped to be CS

Going by seniority, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Additional Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goel (*in picture*),

a 1986-batch IAS officer, is set to be the next Chief Secretary as incumbent Vandita Sharma will retire in November 2023.
Mr. Goel holds an engineering degree and Ph.D in public administration. If appointed as the Chief Secretary, Mr. Goel will be in office for about nine months. His wife Shalini Rajneesh, 1989 batch officer, is currently Additional Chief Secretary and the couple hails from Punjab.
Interestingly, the State has seen a few IAS couple officers and they included ISN Prasad, who retired recently, and Vandita Sharma, and Bipul Bhattacharya and Teresa Bhattacharya, both of whom retired as Chief Secretaries. Though the names of other two IAS officers Ajay Seth and V. Manjula are also doing the rounds, they belong to the 1987 batch and are junior to Mr. Goel.

Ayanur vs. KSE

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa and former MLC Ayanur Manjunath (*in picture*), who were once friends in the BJP, have turned foes now. Within a few days after Ayanur Manjunath joining the Congress, the party appointed him as a spokesperson. Since then, he has been devoting much of his time to

comment on Mr. Eshwarappa. The BJP leader has refused to react to Mr. Manjunath's comments, terming him someone "with no sound mind."
Mr. Manjunath continued to target Mr. Eshwarappa and in a press conference on Saturday said that Mr. Eshwarappa did not understand the basic principles of a democratic system, reacting to the laater's comments that the Congress government would collapse after the Lok Sabha polls next year. Interestingly, Mr. Manjunath is soft on another BJP veteran and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, often lauding his contributions to the development of Shivamogga district.

Yatnal knows the answer

Who will succeed Prime Minister Narendra Modi? This question keeps everyone guessing. But BJP leader and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal seems to have an answer. Addressing a Ganesha Mandal in Haveri recently, he not only revealed the name of the future leader, but also made the crowd reiterate it.
The former Union Minister said that the BJP was defeated in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections in 2023, but he was sure of the party returning to power at the Centre after 2024 general elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue in office without a break. But after Mr. Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will become the PM, Mr. Yatnal said confidently, amidst huge applause from the audience.

Nagesh Prabhu
Sathish G.T.
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai

HDK criticises CM, DKS for watching cricket match amidst drought

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing his tirade against the Congress government, former Chief Minister and JD (S) ad hoc State president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Taking objection to the Chief Minister watching cricket match in Bengaluru at a time when the State is reeling under drought and facing power shortage, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "When Rome was burning, Nero was playing the violin! Here people were in trouble, Nero of Karnataka was watching a cricket match." Terming the Congress as "Scamgress" on X (formerly Twitter), Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "When the State is facing power shortage, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister were busy watching a cricket match."

> When Rome was burning, Nero was playing the violin! Here people were in trouble, Nero of Karnataka was watching a cricket match.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY**
> Former Chief Minister

"Again and again, I am saying that the creation of artificial power shortage is the government's own conspiracy. The more it escalates, the more the government collects commission from the private companies. If not, issue a 'White Paper' on the reality of power shortage. Why are you silent on this? Why did production stop suddenly?" Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged on X.

Responding, Mr, Shivakumar dismissed the commission claims and suggested that Mr. Kumaraswamy should file a complaint if he believes there is misappropriation in power purchases.

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
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Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/LIB/04/2023-24 Dated: 17-10-2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders are invited through KPP Portal for the **Purchase of Print Journals of Indian and Foreign Medical Journals for 2024 and 2025 Academic year to the Library and Information Centre of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**
Tender details, EMD details, List of Journals and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the Procurement mode only. Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Interested tenderers have to register in the Procurement Portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website.
1) Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **30-10-2023. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **15-11-2023 before 4.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Tenders: **17-11-2023 at 10.30 AM.** For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1799/Adverto/2023-24

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821- 2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

IFT no: 905 **Dated: 20.10.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The tender for the work of "Improvements of Water Supply Scheme to Bellur town of Mandya district, Hanur & Yelandur towns of Chamarajanagar district and K.R.Nagar & H.D.Kote towns of Mysuru district under AMRUT 2.0, including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT mode)" amounting to Rs.9017.61 Lakhs has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: KUWSDB/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT64. Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/566/2023-24

FORM NO. INC - 25A
Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for Conversion of Public Company into a Private Company

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, South East Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014.
AND
In the matter of BIKANER HOUSE LIMITED having its registered office at No.2, O Shaughnessy Road, Langford Gardens, Bangalore – 560025 (Company)
.... Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting itself into a Private Limited Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 21.10.2023 to enable the Company to give effect for such conversion.
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the Company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad at 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500 068, Telangana, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this Notice with a copy to the Applicant Company at its registered office at the address mentioned below.

For and on behalf of Bikaner House Limited

Sd/-
Ritu Bothra
Director
DIN: 00616954

Place: Bangalore
Dated 23.10.2023

Registered Office Address: No.2, O' Shaughnessy Road, Langford Gardens, Bangalore – 560025

Decongesting KIA: Is it time to reopen HAL Airport or build a third aerodrome?

Already the country's third busiest, Kempegowda International Airport will exceed its structural capacity of 92 million passengers per annum by 2032-33

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

After a COVID-induced dip of 31.9 million passengers per annum in 2022, KIA is all set to spring back with a projected 40 million passengers per annum by the end of 2023. (Right) A file photo of passengers at the HAL Airport. K. MURALI KUMAR

In an explosive multi-pronged growth mode, Bengaluru's massive population and industry had always mandated at least two fully functional commercial airports. With the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) Managing Director Hari Marar articulating that need recently, the spotlight has shifted back to an old proposal to build a "third airport" after reopening the old HAL Airport.

First, the grim statistics. Already the country's third busiest, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will exceed its structural capacity of 92 million passengers per annum (MPPA) by 2032-33. That is less than 10 years from now. After a COVID-induced dip of 31.9 MPPA in the financial year 2022, the airport is all set to spring back with a projected 40 MPPA by the end of FY 2023, a whopping 25% increase.

BIAL's suggestion came after the Karnataka government reportedly turned down a plan to build a third runway at KIA. But Hari Marar did not make any mention of the HAL airport, which BIAL has steadfastly refused to reopen, citing a 150 km-radius contractual agreement. The contract bars commercial flights from operating at the HAL airport – located within a 150 km radius of KIA – for 25 years after the new aerodrome opened in May 2008.

Mysuru Road corridor

This is why a 2020 proposal by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) to build an airport between Bengaluru and Mysuru becomes critical. Beyond the rising passenger traffic, BCIC had cited the huge anticipated growth in cargo from the industrial corridor in the vicinity. A new airport, the report said, would ensure rapid growth and development in the southern catchment, including Ramanagara, Bidadi, and Channapatna along the Mysuru Road corridor, besides Electronics City and Whitefield.

"We had proposed the new airport somewhere in the triangle between Bengaluru, Channapatna, and Hassan. The Mysuru Road corridor was suggested for multiple reasons. One is the expressway that now assures good, quick transit. You also have a railway system to leverage. That takes care of surface connectivity to the airport," says Devesh Agarwal, former BCIC president who had worked on the report.

Cargo traffic

Airports do not serve passengers alone. He explains, "If you take Memphis, Anchorage, Delaware, Bonn, or Amsterdam, all these airports have more cargo traffic than passengers. Cargo is a very important component of the economy. Looking to expand to a one trillion dollar economy, Karnataka has to ensure connectivity to a high value-add industry in the region."

Typically, food processing, precision engineering, electronics, and floriculture figure among high value-add industries. "Mysuru is becoming a hub for these.

Hassan is one for food-processing and floriculture. The industry is spread all around Bengaluru. The government says to decongest Bengaluru, how are you going to do it? By building infrastructure that will support the IT industries or manufacturing industry to move to Hassan, Mysuru. They cannot move until you give them proper connectivity," Devesh contends.

The report referred to Mysuru's emergence as an alternative city to Bengaluru in the IT sector. With a significant number of IT firms expanding to the north of that city, the expressway, with its 90-minute travel time to Bengaluru, could be the right connectivity option to a new airport. Currently, navigating the densely populated stretch along Bengaluru to Mysuru and the city proper is the only way to reach KIA, located far up North in Devanahalli.

Air traffic growth

Till 2020, Bengaluru's air traffic had grown at a compounded annual rate of 8.3% over the previous 18 years. Passenger volumes quadrupled from FY 2002 to FY 2010 and thereafter trebled from FY 2011 to FY 2020.

Even adjusting for the COVID impact, the city's air passenger volumes were projected to double again by the next decade. The number of air traffic movements (take-offs and departures) also saw an exponential increase during the period cited.

Beyond the obvious economic growth of Bengaluru, what explains the massive growth in air traffic from the city?

Mobility analyst Sanjeev Dyamannaver, who closely follows developments at KIA, draws attention to the perceptible lack of growth in inter-city connectivity options.

The high growth in the IT hub, he says, has not translated to a corresponding growth in rail and road connectivity.

"For instance, a high-speed rail service is not even planned in the near future between Bengaluru and Mumbai. There are no freight corridors. Access to the coast is very limited, you have to reach Chennai, Mangaluru or Kochi by air or depend on roads through ghat sections," he explains.

The railway is stagnating despite an increase in capacity and infrastructure. "Inter-city services have not been improved at all. The travel time between the city and Hyderabad is still high, even with the introduction of the Vande Bharat trains.

"There is an expressway linking Mysuru, but not with Chennai or Hyderabad. All these have increased the load on KIA," elaborates Sanjeev.

HAL airport

For years, KIA had struggled with road and rail connectivity issues. The airport metro is still another two years away from commercial operations. As traffic on the Airport Road mounted and the Hebbal flyover became a choke-point, the demands to reopen the HAL Airport – at least for domestic flights – persisted. Could this be the right time to revive it?

"Today, if a flight from Chennai files a flight plan to KIA showing HAL airport as the next alternative, they will reject that flight plan. Why is the Airports Authority of India (AAI) unwilling to allow HAL airport as a secondary airport or a diversion airport for KIA," wonders Devesh.

A second airport makes sense for short-haul flights. As Devesh points out, there is also fuel-saving potential. "Today, flights from Chennai or Coimbatore have to carry twice the fuel because the alternative to KIA is Chennai," he says.

No safety concerns

Safety and infrastructural gaps could be cited as reasons. But these are out of the question since the President, the Prime Minister, and heads of State often land here in big planes without any safety concerns. The disused infrastructure at the airport could be given a makeover in quick time.

But even if it is refurbished, HAL Airport cannot be used for day/night commercial operations, reminds Sanjeev. "The HAL runway can only be used in a limited way, during night time. It has to cater to test flights by the Light Combat Aircraft and other IAF planes. But the airport can be used to park bigger aircraft. That way, pressure on KIA can be reduced," he says.

Building an entirely new green-field commercial airport, he feels, could run into land acquisition issues. The fertile land along the Mysuru Road corridor could be problematic. Instead, BIAL should look at optimizing underutilized runways around Bengaluru.

Upgrading runways

Sanjeev's point is this: Why not upgrade the Hassan and Mysuru airports and look at how best the airstrip in Kolar, run by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, can be used to land smaller regional aircraft? "Hassan airport is currently used only for cargo operations. But Hubballi airport, with vastly improved connectivity, could be a model to emulate," he notes.

On the Hosur Road side, the government could explore a partnership with Taneja Aerospace to use the Hosur Airport. This, he is convinced, can cater to the air travel needs of Electronic City, Anekal and residents of Bannerghatta Road. But will those who oppose any airport within a 150km radius of KIA agree? That is a big question.

New immunology study highlights importance of COVID vaccination of those who have been exposed to virus

The multi-centric study led by researchers from St. John's Research Institute was published in *npj Vaccines*, a *Nature* journal on September 14

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A study of COVID-19 vaccine immunity highlights the importance of vaccination in those who have already been exposed to the virus.

The study has found that both COVISHIELD and COVAXIN significantly enhance immune responses in subjects with varying levels of basal immunity to SARS CoV-2 developed through natural exposure. The multi-centric study led by researchers from St. John's Research Institute was published in *npj Vaccines*, a *Nature* journal on September 14.

COVISHIELD, manufactured by Serum Institute of India and COVAXIN, indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech Ltd were the first two vaccines authorized for COVID-19 vaccination in India. Even though India had a highly successful vaccination campaign, a majority of the population remained unvaccinated till end of 2021. A major question raised and unknown at that time was whether COVID vaccines available in India in 2021 were even capable of inducing immune responses over and above immunity that may have been acquired through natural exposure to the virus during the ancestral and Delta waves.

Study participants

"We addressed this issue in 700 adults (aged 18-44 years) who received their primary series of vaccination between November 2021 and January 2022. The samples were collected till May 2023 following which the analysis was done," said Annapurna Vyakarnam, whose Human Immunology Laboratory is based at St John's Research Institute (SJRI).

The study participants, who were recruited from four clinical sites and five research institutes in Bengaluru, Pune and Vellore, received either two doses of COVAXIN at 28 days apart or two doses of COVISHIELD at three months apart as per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines. The peak responses to both these vaccines were measured at two weeks (14 days) post the second dose (day 42 for COVAXIN and day 98 for COVISHIELD).

A file photo of a health worker administering COVID vaccine in Bengaluru.

Professor Vyakarnam, who is the lead immunologist of the study, said circulating neutralising antibodies and cellular T-cell responses are cornerstone immune parameters. "This study probed magnitude, breadth and quality of these immune parameters using advanced immunological techniques and demonstrated all three parameters to be enhanced at two weeks after subjects received their first two doses of either of the COVID-19 vaccines," said the researcher, who is also affiliated to King's College London.

Immune response

In addition, first round data from this group showed evidence of persistent anti-COVID-19 immunity, up to one year post COVISHIELD vaccination, but less so with COVAXIN, she said.

Srabanti Rakshit, Project Scientist at the Division of Infectious Diseases in SJRI, who is the lead author of the study, said, "This is not surprising as COVISHIELD vaccine was engineered to enhance immunogenicity, whereas COVAXIN is an inactivated rapidly generated and highly deployable first response efficacious virus vaccine".

"We hope that the unequivocal nature of scientific evidence showing COVID-19 vaccines to broaden and enhance anti-COVID immunity in subjects with pre-existing SARS-CoV-2 immunity, will spur future in-depth analysis of what constitutes persistent immunity to circulating SARS CoV-2 strains," said the researchers.

"Importantly, we hope this will mitigate vaccine hesitancy arguments to current and future national COVID-19 booster vaccination recommendations," they said.

Study sites

Funded by CSR support from Hindustan Unilever, the study was done involving four clinical sites - Bangalore Baptist Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital Research Center, Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Center and St. John's Medical College Hospital and five research institutes: National Centre for Biological Sciences, Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine, St. John's Research Institute, National Chemical Laboratory and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 24, 1973

Incident in Mysore High Court: MLC's claim

BANGALORE, October 23: The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, alleged in the Mysore Legislative Council to-day that a Minister of the State Government was the "unseen hand" behind the demonstration which was held against the Chief Justice of the Mysore High Court on October 8.

He challenged that he was even prepared to mention the name of the Minister in whose residence the plan for holding the demonstration was discussed. It was indeed shocking that a "highly placed" and a responsible person in the Government had "stoop" to such a level.

It might be recalled here that on October 8 a group of seven persons, all students, calling themselves volunteers of the Samajavadi Yuvajana Sabha, shouted slogans against the Chief Justice, Mr. Govinda Bhat for making a donation to a hospital under the auspices of the Viswa Hindu Parishad. They also buried pamphlets in the Court Hall.

They were arrested on charges of criminal trespass and interruption of judicial proceedings. The issue figured in the house following a statement made by the leader of the House. Mr. Hutchmasty Gowda, in response to a calling attention notice of Mr. Ullal (Ind).

Several members of the Opposition criticised the Government for its "apathy" in investigating into the incident to trace the "real culprits", behind the demonstration. Mr. Hegde and Mr. Ullal and others demanded that the Government traces the printing press which printed the pamphlets hurled by the demonstrators. Mr. Ullal said that the pamphlets did not bear the name of the press and therefore it was clear violation of the Press Registration Act.

(The edition dated October 23 is not available)

Deck up your doll display

For Dussehera this year, the Grameena Angadi has over 250 varieties of dolls — in terracota, wood, marble, grain, papier mache and fabric

Ranjani Govind

How many kinds of dolls do you have in your display? This season, you can add to your collection with a wide range of dolls from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan. Grameena Angadi has over 250 varieties of dolls – in terra cota, wood, marble, grain, papier mache and fabric – especially stocked up for this Dussehera.

Doing away with middlemen, Grameena Angadi sells everything handmade and organic, from handicrafts, textiles, food products to grocery to empower rural artisans, farmers and cottage industries.

"All festive demands for crafts are met by sourcing them directly, and this year apart from Channapatna (Karnataka), Kinnala (North Karnataka) and Kondapally (Andhra Pradesh) dolls, that we generally promote, we also have terracotta dolls sourced from artisans in Kolkata, Kanakapura near Bangalore and Haranahalli in Shivamogga," says B Gangadhara Murthy, from the village handicrafts cooperative Grameena Karakushala Udhyama, who is also manager of Grameena Angadi in Jayanagar 4th T Block-East.

"We have special fabric dolls supplied by Madhuri Bhat in Bengaluru whose small-time business is raising awareness and helping the art form survive. While she supplies to those in her inner circle, we market her artistically done pieces. We have received many orders, as they are aesthetic, easy to preserve and do not break."

Grameena Angadi also has the heritage Channapatna wooden dolls that last for generations thanks to their non-breakable features and special lacquer. The mud dolls from Kanakapura are quite interesting as are the tiny, three-inch ones from Kolkata, featuring musicians and freedom fighters.

"We also have mud dolls depicting stories from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* from Tamil Nadu and wooden Dashavatara from Kondapalli made from moringa wood," says Murthy, as he shows us miniature Ganeshas made from nine varieties of grain, which are also long-lasting.

Ranjani Monday doll story Special Arrangement

However, this year, apart from the amazing range to choose from, there is a rise in price as well. Local art and crafts store dealers in Bengaluru quote several reasons for the high price of dolls crafted out of terracotta, plaster of Paris, wood, marble and synthetic marble.

Many local artisans have left their ancestral profession over the last few years for better paying jobs, Murthy says. "We have had to source dolls from remote regions in Karnataka that were still attached to cottage industries. The few doll makers who continue to ply their craft, earn most of their profits during festive season. Understandably, they charge for their expertise and this year has seen an increase of 20% in prices."

The fact that these locally made dolls from Karnataka are gradually disappearing is another reason for the increase in price, says Murthy. "The Kinnala Gombe of North Karnataka's Koppala district, a wooden painted doll art form encouraged by the Vijayanagara kings, have become quite rare."

Though Channapatna doll makers managed to survive with export orders, Kinnala Chitragaras (artistes) barely received assistance from the government and other institutions, says Murthy. "Most doll makers find it difficult to market their wares or participate in exhibitions, especially after COVID-19. Rising costs of raw material and taxes are also taking a toll on the crafts."

The Grameena Co-operative was established in 2002, supporting 10 families; today, it runs six shops in the city and helps more than 800 artisan families. For Dussehera, Grameena Angadi has 100 handmade dolls in different varieties on display at the store. The price of the dolls range from ₹175 to ₹3500. There is a Dussehera discount for the dolls as well.

Small start

Back to the classics Madhuri Bhat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ranjani Govind

Madhuri Bhat, 56, who teaches mathematics at school, started making dolls as she was fascinated by them. Born and brought up in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhuri pursued her B.Sc and BEd, but every time she passed a doll store or went to see Dussehera displays of friends and family, she would be intent on figuring out how the dolls were made.

"Doll making interested me even as a child. I would cut pieces of cloth and use cotton to shape them. I would not waste any scrap metal, string or pieces of wood or cloth, as they all came in handy for trial sessions. I would spend hours experimenting and designing them," says Madhuri, who has now made Bengaluru her home.

Madhuri eventually upgraded her childhood skills, with the encouragement of family and friends. Though she began making dolls on a larger scale as a social enterprise, she did not want to turn commercial. "Doll making is more than a craft as the artisan here passes on positive vibes during the process. Navaratri, for example, provides us with an occasion to solicit the goddess Durga's blessings."

Madhuri's repertoire includes baby dolls, gods and goddess, brides and grooms, and all dance forms including Karnataka folk and Yakshagana, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak and Mohiniyattam. "I take about 12 hours to make a doll and complete each with the required embellishments. Sometimes I can finish them in a day, others get extended for a day or two," says Madhuri, who makes the dolls single handedly.

"As of now I make only fabric dolls with a fibre base and wooden stand for structural work. I clothe them with fabric and then decorate them. I need to read and keep myself informed about culture, mythology and history to be accurate and up to date."

Madhuri's dolls are available at Grameena Angadi.

A potent yet complicated fanboy tribute

FILM REVIEW

Vivek MV

Director MG Srinivas, popularly known as Srini, is a die-hard fan of Shivarajkumar. In *Ghost,* he ups the style quotient of his leading man. The Kannada superstar sports a sleek hairstyle, wears blue contact lenses and an elegant outfit. Srini also shapes Shivarajkumar's character as a larger-than-life personality. As a result, *Ghost* becomes a solid fanboy experience that also manages to be the actor's best outing since *Tagaru*.

The film begins with two political parties at loggerheads due to the privatisation of a jail. The city is then reeling with tension when a gangster (Shivarajkumar) lays seige on a prison with former CBI officer (Prashant Narayanan), a prominent personality, in his custody. City commissioner Chengappa (Jayaram) is given the job of taking control of the situation.

Shivarajkumar, back in his successful gangster avatar, takes on the role with aplomb. Called 'Ghost', he effortlessly gets into vigilante mode as Srini does not miss a chance to celebrate his terrific screen presence. Those who found genuine whistle-worthy scenes missing in Shivarajkumar's previous Kannada films will be pleased with *Ghost,* while those who discovered the actor's on-screen swag in *Jailer* might enjoy his big moments. The de-ageing of the veteran actor is another indulgent yet honest fanboy tribute from Srini.

Ghost (Kannada)

Director: Srini
Cast: Shivarajkumar, Jayaram, Prashanth Narayanan, Anupam Kher, Archana Jois
Runtime: 134 minutes
Storyline: A dreaded gangster lays seige on a prison, and a cop arrives to stop the criminal from executing his plans

Donning a different look Shivarajkumar in *Ghost.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once you move past the protagonist of *Ghost* and focus on its story, the film comes across as a lost opportunity. Srini's screenplay oscillates between being layered and incomprehensible. In some places, you admire the cleverness of writing, while in others, you are bewildered by the absurd nature of the twists. The surprises in the plot appear conveniently to suit the hero's pursuit, as most of them are illogical otherwise.

Also, the non-linear screenplay of *Ghost* is overstuffed, so much so that not many scenes linger in one's mind. Sure, the fast-paced narration does not allow you to take your eyes off the screen, but the transitions are so abrupt that you rarely get time to process the proceedings. If this is the kind of cinema you wish to watch – wherein entertainment overshadows an organic experience – *Ghost* is worth your money.

Arjun Janya's background score blends well with the film's breakneck speed. Among the action sequences, one involving handcuffs stands out. Meanwhile, actor Jayaram, who has dubbed for himself in Kannada, somehow manages to exude superb energy into a caricature-ish character.

The film leaves you with a slew of unanswered questions, which Srini has an opportunity to answer in the sequel of *Ghost*. Thankfully, the director does not force the concept of Srini-verse (involving his sophomore film *Birbal)* in this outing and goes easy on the idea.

A heist thriller with a fixed timeline in Kannada after a long time feels like a welcome change. *Ghost* is a film that deserves appreciation for its attempt; not so much for its result.

Ghost is currently running in theatres

Preserving memories

The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) has announced a three-week online lecture series titled 'Photographs: Collection Care & Management' as part of the MAP-Tata Trusts Art Conservation Initiative. Scheduled to run from October 27 to November 17, this event aims to provide art enthusiasts and conservationists with essential insights into the care and management of photograph collections.

The lecture series features 15 sessions, offering an in-depth exploration of vital topics such as photograph identification, recognising signs of deterioration, preventive conservation tools, and documentation and housing techniques. Leading the workshop is Anupam Sah, a distinguished art conservator, strategist and educator with a wealth of experience.

Anupam's illustrious career includes Director of Projects at INTACH Conservation Institutes (1995-2006), and Head of Art Conservation, Research, and Training at CSMVS Art Conservation Centre (2008-2023). He has also provided heritage conservation, training and consulting services for the Government of India's Ministries of Culture, Tourism, Urban Development, as well as various State Governments, Universities, NGOs, World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, Tata Trusts, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, World Monument Fund, Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute, Harvard University, University of Pretoria, and other institutions and corporate houses.

The workshop includes contributions from renowned national and international faculty who specialise in photographs conservation and collection care, enriching the learning experience for participants.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register by October 24 and the workshop is open to adult audiences aged 18 and above. For more information, visit map-india.org

In first list, BJP confirms Eatala vs KCR contest in Gajwel constituency

Prominence given to Backward Classes candidates with 19 of them included on the 52-member list; a total of 12 women candidates find a place; the party has fielded eight Scheduled Caste and six Scheduled Tribe candidates

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The first list of Bharatiya Janata Party candidates for the Telangana Assembly election is finally out with 52 names cleared by the Central Election Committee meeting chaired by party president J.P. Nadda and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and its other members on Sunday.

As was expected, former State party president and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar will contest from the Karimnagar constituency and former Minister and election campaign coordination committee chairman Eatala Rajender will be taking on Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at Gajwel, besides Huzurabad. Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Aravind will contest from Koratla and Adilabad MP Soyam Babu Rao from Boath.

Other names

M. Raghunandan Rao, who won the byelection to the Dubbak seat, will contest from the same constituency, while former MLA Chintala Ramchandra Reddy will be once again trying his luck from the Khairatabad constituency. Another noted candidate is the elder brother of BRS Minister Erraballi Dayakar Rao, Erraballi Pradeep Rao, who got ticket for Warangal East.

The names cleared by the committee include Palvai Harish Babu (Sirpur), Amarajula Sridevi (Bellampalli), Ramesh Rathod (Khanapur), Payal Shankar (Adilabad), Aleti Maheshwar Reddy (Nirmal), Ramarao Patel (Mudhole), Paidi Rakesh Reddy (Armur), T. Aruna Tara (Jukkal), K. Venkata Ramana Reddy (Kamareddy), Dhanpal Suryanaryana Gupta (Nizamabad Urban), Annapurnamma Aleti (Balkonda), Boga Sravani (Jagtial), S. Kumar (Dharmapuri), Kandula Sandhya Rani (Ramagundam), Bodiga Shobha (Choppadandi), Rani Rudrama Reddy (Sircilla), Arepalli Mohan (Manakondur), Erragolla Murali Yadav (Narsapur), T. Nandhishwar Goud (Patancheru), Madavaneni Raghunandan Rao (Dubbak), Kuna Srisailam Goud (Quthbullapur).

As promised, prominence was given to Backward Classes candidates with 19 fielded of whom two were women. The forward castes got 19 seats of which 12 belong to the dominant Reddy community. Among the forward castes, one seat was given to the Vysha community and another to the Agarwal community.

The first list also had eight Scheduled Caste and six Scheduled Tribe candidates. Over all, 12 women candidates found a place in the first list.

Core discussion: Narendra Modi with BJP president J.P. Nadda during the party's Central Election Committee meeting for the Telangana Assembly election, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Raja Singh's suspension lifted; party set to field him again

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The BJP's central disciplinary committee has decided to revoke the suspension of Goshamahal MLA T. Raja Singh, after due consideration of his explanation in response to the show cause notice served by the party. Om Pathak, member secretary of the committee, said in a communication to Mr. Singh that the panel had considered his reply before taking the decision.

This clears the path for him to be renominated once again from the Goshamahal constituency in Telangana, said party sources on Sunday. The controversial leader was suspended from the party in August 2022 for making provocative statements against a particular religion when the Telangana government allowed a stand-up comic to conduct his show in Hyderabad.

T. Raja Singh

The artist was accused of insulting Hindu gods in his shows by Mr. Singh. He was arrested by the police under the Preventive Detention Act, but the Telangana High Court later set aside the provisions under which he was arrested. The BJP, which was already facing criticism for the remarks made by its leader, Nupur Sharma, served a notice of suspension on Mr. Singh.

Telangana CEO not satisfied with election arrangements

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj has expressed dissatisfaction over the gaps in the arrangements for the hassle-free conduct of the Assembly election.

The CEO, who took stock of the situation during a video conference, drew the attention of the returning officers and other officials concerned about the gaps that were surfacing in spite of the instructions given by the election authority. He was particular about the complaints received from the people as well as the political parties and asked the officials to convene meetings of the district grievances committees on seizures.

Fast resolution

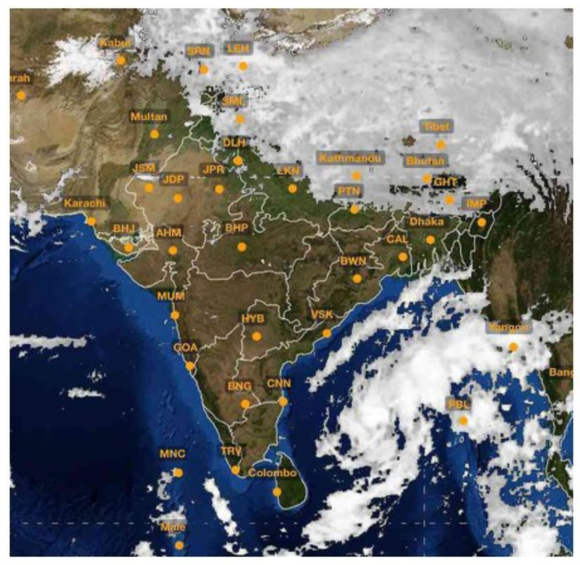
The committees should ensure that genuine cases are resolved immediately after taking all the parameters into consideration.

There was a need to prepare foolproof reports relating to the seizures and the Acts under which they were made. Receipts should be given for every seizure and the aggrieved party should be educated about to whom their appeal should be referred.

The Director-General of Police stressed the need for confidence-building measures and insisted that there should be visibility of the police like flag marches.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.1	23.5	Kozhikode	9.0	33.8	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	37.5	21.8	Kurnool	—	36.3	24.5
Aizawl	—	31.6	19.0	Lucknow	—	32.3	17.2
Allahabad	—	33.7	17.1	Madurai	0.2	34.5	23.6
Bengaluru	—	30.2	21.7	Mangaluru	—	32.0	23.9
Bhopal	—	33.9	16.9	Mumbai	—	35.0	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	22.8	Mysuru	—	32.4	23.4
Chandigarh	—	30.9	15.8	New Delhi	—	31.6	15.8
Chennai	9.0	31.5	24.9	Patna	—	33.0	18.6
Coimbatore	—	33.2	24.4	Port Blair	70.0	30.2	24.3
Dehradun	—	29.3	14.0	Puducherry	—	34.2	26.4
Gangtok	—	20.1	12.3	Pune	—	35.6	24.8
Goa	—	33.8	24.2	Raipur	—	31.0	18.0
Guwahati	—	32.6	21.0	Ranchi	—	29.0	16.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.5	13.9
Hyderabad	—	32.6	21.8	Shimla	—	20.5	11.0
Imphal	—	31.7	15.7	Srinagar	—	17.4	6.6
Jaipur	—	33.4	22.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.4	25.0
Kochi	6.0	31.0	25.4	Tiruchi	1.0	33.5	25.0
Kohima	—	22.8	12.0	Vijayawada	—	33.6	24.4
Kolkata	—	32.1	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	9	.23	204	164	
Bengaluru	6	11	.53	143	114	
Chennai	4	.22	.67	93	101	
Delhi	.13	.84	.37	375	—	
Hyderabad	.13	9	.36	167	140	
Kolkata	.44	.33	.22	69	99	
Lucknow	6	104	.62	111	146	
Mumbai	.34	1	.44	246	148	
Pune	129	209	112	157	106	
Visakhapatnam	4	.45	.44	95	121	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Shadipur, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 375 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ballygunge, Kolkata recorded a healthy AQI score of 99.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sabotage suspected in 'damage' to pier of Medigadda barrage in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

A small portion of the bridge of the Lakshmi (Medigadda) barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in Telangana's Jayashankar Bhupalpally district 'caved in' after pillar number 20 of Block 7 of the barrage had 'partially sunk' amid loud sound on Saturday night, raising suspicion of sabotage.

The incident led to the temporary closure of the bridge of the barrage across the Godavari river that links Telangana's Mahadevpur mandal with Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, as a safety precaution. Following the incident, the KLIP officials immediately swung into action and complained to the local police about the incident suspecting some foul play citing the 'deafening sound' that preceded it. The Block 7 of the barrage is located close to the Maharashtra side, sources in the Irrigation department said. The stored water in the barrage was let out by opening around 22 of the total 85 gates of the barrage to facilitate the technical assessment of the exact cause and extent of damage. The water level in the barrage decreased from 10 tmcft to 2.91 tmcft by Sunday evening, sources added. Irrigation department sources said that it was preliminarily assessed that the basement of pillar number 22 of the barrage was slightly damaged and the repairs will be carried out by the construction company soon. The 1.6 km long barrage has 86 piers and its storage capacity is 16.17 tmcft.

The L&T has built the barrage and it has also been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining it for five years.

Lakshmi (Medigadda) barrage of Kaleshwaram project at Ambatpally village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

JD(S) Kerala unit scrambles to shrug off BJP connection

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Janata Dal(S) Kerala unit on Sunday scrambled to shrug off the "discomfiting political stigma" of its national leadership throwing in its lot with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka even as the party's Kerala unit holds a Cabinet portfolio under the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front government.

Embarrassingly for the JD(S) State unit, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had sought to politically exploit JD(S) national president H.D. Deve Gowda's recent assertion that his lurch to the BJP had the tacit approval of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The Congress leaned on the startling statement to try to hobble the CPI(M)'s strong pivot to the minority communities in Kerala ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Making amends

JD(S) leader and Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty strived to make amends for the situation under withering criticism from Congress and, purportedly, from within the ruling front.

Mr. Krishnankutty told a television news channel that JD(S) State president Mathew T. Thomas had met with the national leadership and rebuffed its association with the BJP. He said that Mr. Thomas had unequivocally told the party's national leadership that its alliance with the BJP was unacceptable.

Mr. Krishnankutty said Mr. Thomas told the national leadership of the JD (S) that the party in Kerala had severed its relationship with the party centre. The JD(S) State unit would operate independently of the national leadership, Mr. Krishnankutty said.

However, the JD(S) State leaders were ambiguous on whether the party's Kerala unit would formally split from the national party anytime soon, change its nomenclature and petition the Election Commission for the status of an independent political entity.

Mr. Vijayan had said that Congress was in league with the BJP in several local bodies in Kerala to keep the LDF out of power.

Tej now an extremely severe cyclone over the Arabian Sea

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The very severe cyclone that formed over the Arabian Sea on Sunday intensified into an extremely severe cyclone. The cyclone, which is moving north-westwards, is likely to cross the Yemen coast close to Al Ghaidah in the early hours of Tuesday as a very severe cyclonic storm with wind speed of 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph.

Kerala is likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall triggered by the weather systems over the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. A yellow alert has been issued for eight districts from Kollam to Palakkad,

Kerala is likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall triggered by the weather system

warning of isolated heavy rains on Monday. However, the typical northeast monsoon rain will be absent at least for the next few days in the State as the present weather system over the Bay of Bengal is likely to upset the flow of northeasterlies.

Meanwhile, the depression formed over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a deep depression in 24 hours and subsequently a cyclonic storm by Tuesday, according to a weather bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday. The IMD is monitoring the situation.

It is likely to move towards the Andhra coast during the next 12 hours and then recurve and move north-eastwards towards Bangladesh and adjoining the West Bengal coast during the subsequent three days.

Fishermen are advised to not venture into the southwest and west-central Arabian Sea till Wednesday as gale wind speed is likely to reach up to 150-160 kmph gusting to 175 km in the west-central Arabian Sea on Monday.

Will come out soon and lead the fight against YSRCP's 'draconian rule': Chandrababu Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu wrote an open letter on Sunday to the people from the central prison in Rajamahendravaram, exuding confidence that he would soon come out without any blemish and lead the fight against the "draconian rule" of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

Mr. Naidu has been in the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison for more than seven weeks now. The ACB Court in Vijayawada extended Mr. Naidu's remand till November 1, while the Supreme Court reserved its judgment on a separate petition in the case.

'Truth will prevail'

Mr. Naidu said in the letter that the YSRCP could not destroy his credibility and reputation by putting him behind bars for a crime he had not committed, and insisted that truth would prevail sooner than later. The TDP chief said he would strive for development of the State and the people's well-being with greater vigour once he comes out of the prison. Mr. Naidu alleged that it was the fear of losing the 2024 election

N. Chandrababu Naidu

that prompted the YSRCP to implicate him in false cases.

Mr. Naidu said he advised his wife Bhuvaneswari to reach out to the people in his absence and fight on their behalf against the YSRCP's misrule.

Asserting that the present crisis in the TDP was only a temporary setback, Mr. Naidu said he was grateful to all those who expressed solidarity with him, and exhorted the party leaders to continue the fight against the YSRCP in a peaceful manner.

"I have no doubt in my mind that good will win over the evil. It's only a matter of time," Mr. Naidu said.

Bhuvaneswari's yatra

Meanwhile, Ms. Bhuvaneswari is all set to embark on *Nijam Gelavali* (truth should triumph) Yatra from Naravaripalle in Chandragiri Assembly constituency of Tirupati district on October 25, protesting against the TDP national president's arrest.

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh suspended his *Yuva Galam Padayatra* in the wake of his father's arrest on September 9 and had to postpone its resumption.

It is against this backdrop that, Ms. Bhuvaneswari decided to reach out to the people to drum up support for her husband.

The TDP has sought police protection for the yatra as the political atmosphere has been charged ever since Mr. Naidu began his tour of irrigation projects on August 1 and his subsequent arrest.

Roadblocks to unity

Opposition parties need more than antagonism to BJP to be an alternative

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, or INDIA, a bloc of 28 parties that seeks to dislodge the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power in 2024, appears unable to maintain a united front in the Assembly elections scheduled for November in five States. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, where the Congress is a key contender for power, no seat sharing with smaller constituents of the bloc has yet been announced. In Telangana, the Left, and in Madhya Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP), feel let down by the Congress. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has been scathing in his attack on the Congress. The Aam Aadmi Party has gone ahead with its own plans in the election-going States, while its relations with the Congress in Punjab and Delhi continue to plummet. INDIA had to give up plans for a joint rally twice – in Bhopal and in Nagpur. All this is indicative of the headwinds that INDIA faces in translating the common interest of its partners into seat sharing and a joint campaign. The problems of unity are structural and tactical. Most of the regional outfits were born out of antagonism to the Congress, and despite a current common adversary, the trust deficit is huge.

The internal dynamics within the Congress also create roadblocks to seat sharing. Rahul Gandhi and the central leadership of the party want to adopt a generous approach toward partners but State units in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana think otherwise. Meanwhile, the Congress in Rajasthan is also facing a challenge from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen which can capture a portion of its votes. Nationalist Congress Party veteran Sharad Pawar has suggested that INDIA partners should focus on the 2024 contest as varied situations make seat sharing difficult in regional elections. But the bad blood created in this election cycle could threaten unity efforts before 2024 too. The panels announced by the bloc at its Mumbai conclave in September to coordinate action on various fronts are stuttering. Constituents have diverging views on key issues being raised by the Congress such as crony capitalism of the BJP and caste census. The personal ambitions of leaders are also coming into play, a grim reminder of how coalition politics contributed to the ascent of majoritarianism, ahead of 2014. A front against the BJP will require a stronger Congress as its axis, and a deeper understanding and trust among its leaders that should also nudge them to look beyond their personal ambitions and outreach to parties such as the BSP which is currently not a part of the bloc. Antagonism to the BJP might be a glue, but a viable alternative will need a much more binding solution; it calls for a vision of nation-building.

The ascent begins

ISRO has started a crucial phase of its human spaceflight mission

At 10 a.m. on October 21, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced the first uncrewed developmental flight of its 'Gaganyaan' human spaceflight mission from Sriharikota, designated TV-D1. The launch vehicle, a single-stage rocket, carried a crew module fit with a crew-escape system (CES) to an altitude of 12 km. There, the CES detached itself with the crew module from the rocket and climbed up to 17 km. In response to a command, the CES separated from the crew module, leaving the module to reorient itself before dropping over the Bay of Bengal. Its descent was slowed first by drogue parachutes and then by the main parachutes. Finally, the module splashed into the Bay a short distance from Sriharikota, where the Indian Navy hauled it out. The CES also splashed down farther down range. The flight tested the CES's ability to protect the crew in case the rocket malfunctioned, and collected data via sensors to inform future tests. The test's value will be based on this data. According to ISRO chairman S. Somanath, ISRO has many tests planned to develop confidence that the organisation can safely launch humans to orbit. Even the parachutes used for TV-D1 underwent 16 tests. Such fastidiousness is non-negotiable. TV-D1 was supposed to have been conducted at 8 a.m., when unfavourable weather pushed it to 8.45 a.m. Then, however, the automatic launch sequence held back the launch with a few seconds on the clock. Mr. Somanath subsequently announced that TV-D1 would be postponed. But ISRO personnel were able to quickly identify and resolve the problem, and the launch was rescheduled for 10 a.m.

These checks and balances are expensive, but are in place to prevent greater costs later. Plans for the programme were first readied in 2009 at an estimated ₹12,400 crore. The Union Cabinet granted its approval in December 2018 at ₹9,023 crore assuming first flight by 2022. But the COVID-19 pandemic and other commitments have caused delays such that the earliest the first crewed flight can happen is currently 2025. Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on ISRO to launch humans to the moon by 2040. Even with the requisite financial support, this would be a very tight deadline, but as with fastidiousness, contemporary geopolitics has also rendered returning to the moon non-negotiable. Fortunately, with 'Gaganyaan', ISRO has indicated how a balance can be struck: plan ahead, boost local manufacturing, test exhaustively, launch when ready. The deadline may be missed, but the mission can be undertaken with confidence while also improving local capabilities.

The Court's 'no fundamental right to marry' is wrong

Anand Grover

is a senior advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India. He appeared in the Naz Foundation, Suresh Kumar Koushal, Puttaswamy, NALSA, Navtej Johar and Supriyo Chakraborty of the LGBTQI groups/individuals

So we have it from the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo Chakraborty*. There is no fundamental right to marry, it holds. On that account, the Court decided that same sex persons cannot marry. In my view this is a wrong decision.

However, to the credit of the Court, it directed, unanimously, that same sex couples have to be protected from any harassment. The Court also passed directions to sensitise the authorities on this behalf and even directed the setting up of a committee to look into a number of issues. However, the flaw is fundamental which needs to be corrected, sooner than later.

To understand *Supriyo Chakraborty*, we need to contextualise it. In 2009, the Delhi High Court read down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in *Naz Foundation* (*Naz*). That was set aside in *Suresh Kumar Koushal* by the Supreme Court in 2013, but ultimately upheld *Naz* in *Navtej Singh Johar* in 2018. Section 377 IPC, a law made by the British, that criminalised sex between non-heterosexual couples was punishable with 10 years imprisonment.

As a result, the LGBTQI communities suffered blackmail, torture, violence, harassment at the hands of the police, their lovers and families. A gay man, for instance, could not disclose his orientation for the fear of reprisals. This is what I heard from clients who began coming to the Lawyers Collective from 1997, when we took the decision to challenge the constitutional validity of Section 377 in 2001. Both *Naz* and *Navtej Johar* did not strike down Section 377. They held that adult non-heterosexual couples having physical relations with consent in private would not be criminalised.

In the meantime, even before *Navtej Johar*, the Court had held, in *NALSA*, that persons are entitled to identify their own gender. They may be born as males but if they want to identify as females or transgenders, they are entitled to do so. Pursuant to that, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act was passed by Parliament which provides the procedure for changing one's gender and protection against discrimination in diverse establishments, private or state.

A stigmatisation

It had also been held by the Court in diverse decisions that in India a person is entitled to autonomy, dignity, privacy and the right to choose their own partners to live with or in marriage. Obviously, after *Navtej Johar*, when one can have intimate relations with a person of any gender or sexual orientation, it is logical to assume that in that situation when a couple are having a physical relationship, they may prefer to develop a long-term relationship, including that of marriage. For marriage brings along with it a host of advantages for the couple, including succession in the field of inheritance, adoption of children, taking decisions in case of hospitalisation, and benefits from employers.

> The Supreme Court of India's line, with respect to same sex persons, that there is no fundamental right to marry, is incorrect

More than anything else, in the eyes of society, it sanctifies the relationship beyond reproach. A relationship less than marriage is not considered by society to have the same legitimacy. Without that legitimacy, LGBTQI communities are stigmatised. Consequently, LGBTQI communities began making strong demands for their right to marry. Petitions were filed in the Delhi and the Kerala High Courts which were all transferred to the Supreme Court where too fresh petitions were filed. It is in this background that the Court, in *Supriyo Chakraborty*, was asked to decide the right of recognition to marriage by the state of non-heterosexual couples

The human rights declaration

The fundamental core decision of the Supreme Court in *Supriyo Chakraborty* is that there is no fundamental right to marry in India. In arriving at this decision, the Court ignored the fact that India was an original signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the founding document of all human rights in the world. It is well known that the Indian Constitution was greatly influenced by the UDHR.

As a signatory country to the UDHR, legislation by Parliament and State Legislatures in India must be in accord with the UDHR. More importantly, courts in India have interpreted the Constitution and statues in line with the UDHR and other international covenants.

Article 16 of the UDHR, 1948 provides that, "Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family...." Under the UDHR, the right to marry is a human right. In the face of this can it be argued that it is not a fundamental right?

Critics would argue that the Indian Constitution does not provide for the right to marry explicitly. However, this ignores the Indian constitutional jurisprudence where the courts have interpreted constitutional provisions and enunciated new penumbral rights in a liberal and expansive manner.

The Supreme Court of India has read the right to be treated with dignity into Article 21 (a classical negative covenant on the state). It is on that basis, that positive rights, including the rights to education, food, environment have been evolved.

The Supreme Court has used the provisions of UDHR to elaborate rights under the Constitution. Thus, in the context of handcuffing and consequential torture contrary to Article 21 of the Constitution, in *Prem Shankar Shukla*, the Supreme Court referred to Article 5 of the UDHR stating that, "After all, even while discussing the relevant statutory and constitutional requirements court and counsel must never forget the core principle found in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." This was reiterated in *Francis Coralie Mullin*, which based on the concept of dignity stated,"It would thus be seen that there is implicit in Article 21 the right to protection against torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment which is enunciated in Article 5 of the [UDHR]". In *Maneka Gandhi*, the Supreme Court relied on Article 10 of the UDHR to read in principles of natural justice into the administrative process to state, "Hark back to Article 10 of the [UDHR] to realise that human rights have but a verbal hollow if the protective armour of *Audi altered parted* is deleted". Thus, it was eminently reasonable to develop the concept of the right to marry into Articles 19 and 21, especially because the right to intimate relations is now recognised in *Supriyo Chakraborty* itself. Surprisingly, the Court says that we cannot use foreign jurisprudence in the case of legal issues relatig to marriage, despite the fact that in *Surpriyo Chakraborty*, the Court has introduced the doctrine of intimate association borrowed from the jurisprudence developed in the United States.

On transgender persons

The irony is that for transgender persons, the Court holds that marriage between a trans-man and a cis-woman or between a transwoman and a cisman is legal. That is correct. But there lies irony. It needs to be appreciated that according to the logic of the judgment, marriage is only legal between a man and woman, that is a biological man and woman. The Court has rightly made the leap from biological sex to gender, which is self-identified in accordance with *NALSA*. If the leap was possible for biological sex to self-identified gender, it is difficult to understand why a leap could not be made from biological sex to sexual orientation. After all, not recognising marriage for same sex couples is not only discriminatory against them. The unintended consequence of the judgment in the larger society is that the notion that same sex couples are "not fit for marriage" will be perpetuated. It now has the imprimatur of the highest court. It reduces them to second class citizens.

The sooner this wrong is set right the better it would be for society as whole. My message to my LGBTQI colleagues is that fighting involves falling several times before the ultimate victory. We fell after *Koushal*. But we fought and won in *Navtej*. Now, we need to get up and fight and win again, which we shall do.

Restoring the ecological health of the Himalayas

Tikender Singh Panwar

is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, author, and initiator for Alternatives in the Himalayan Region

The environmental devastation caused in the Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim has reinvigorated the debate on the "carrying capacity' of the regions. The Supreme Court of India, in response to a petition filed by a retired Indian Police Service officer, has asked the Union government to suggest a way forward regarding the carrying capacity of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), which includes its towns and cities.

The Union government's affidavit (filed by the Ministry of Environment) states that the Director of the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment should be the lead in assessing carrying capacity and that the carrying capacity of all 13 Himalayan States and Union Territories (UT) should be determined. The affidavit adds that there can be a technical support group comprising nominees of the National Institute of Disaster Management, Bhopal; National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee; Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur; Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun; Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun; Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; and School of Planning and Architecture.

The affidavit further suggests that representatives of State disaster management authorities, the Geological Survey of India, Survey of India and member secretaries or nominees of the Central Pollution Control Board and Central Ground Water Board should also be its members.

The government has requested the Court to direct the Himalayan States/UTs to set up a committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the respective State, with its members being inducted as the Chief Secretary feels appropriate.

What carrying capacity of a region is

In technical terms, carrying capacity of a region is based on the maximum population size that an ecosystem or environment can sustainably support over a specific period without causing significant degradation or harm to its natural resources and overall health. It is crucial in understanding and managing the balance between human activities and the preservation of natural ecosystems to ensure long-term sustainability.

> Involve the local population and grass-roots bodies in determining the carrying capacity of the Indian Himalayan Region

There have been initiatives by the Union government regarding overall development in the IHR. Some of them are the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (2010), the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme, Secure Himalaya Project, and the recent guidelines on 'Carrying Capacity in the IHR' circulated on January 30, 2020. There was a reminder by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on May 19, 2023, asking all the States that if such a study had not been undertaken, then States should submit an action plan (carrying capacity) at the earliest.

What the Court must ensure

Despite past initiatives especially since the January 2020 guidelines, hardly any progress has been made. The reasons are obvious. There is no report on the total number of States that have been able to prepare action plans on carrying capacity of their regions.

Failures in the past have been on account of two major reasons. The recommendations made by the Ministry in forming such groups are flawed. The same set of people responsible for the havoc and devastation in the mountains are now being made responsible in finding solutions.

The focus has to be on sustainable development that encompasses the larger canvas of carrying capacity, and the process should be people-centric.

The suggestion made by the Environment Ministry focuses on one institution, i.e., the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, while others are just a part of the technical group. Almost all the other institutes are important players in their respective domains and should be equal partners in policy making.

Though the suggestion of including the entire IHR is relevant, and also desired, just measuring the carrying capacity of towns and cities is pointless. Take for example the road network in the Himalayan States that has spontaneously created settlements. Hence, the entire region should be the focus of the top court. The emphasis should be on the "Sustainable Population" of the Himalayan States, and the focus of the current inquiry (which is in the offing) should be the "carrying capacity for the sustainable populations for the different Himalayan States."

There is a wider and longer term need for assessing the overall sustainable capacity of the environment of the whole State (which includes all biological species, food, habitat, water including ecology and agriculture). The expert committee should be asked to focus on the social aspects or population sustainability of the respective States.

Given the importance of the resident population in the IHR living in towns and villages, the expert committee should not become a bureaucratic or technical group. Such a committee (at least a third) should include adequate citizen representation – from panchayats and other urban local bodies.

In order to evaluate the social dimension of sustainability, it is necessary for the expert committee to direct each panchayat *samiti* and municipality to present its recommendations by responding to the population sustainability criteria which is well established and should be circulated immediately to each local government centre.

One must not forget that it is the forewarning of concerned people on the issue of the construction of hydropower projects and even four-lane highway projects in the IHR that has been brushed aside – particularly in the case of Sikkim. The results are before us. Engage with the people and build sustainable solutions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spotlight on INDIA

As against a tightly organised Bharatiya Janata Party, the INDIA alliance is a bundle of contradictions. The failure of talks between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress over seat sharing in Madhya Pradesh and the war of words between the two parties betray a lack of consensus on core issues. The ideology of the parties in the bloc varies from ultra-left to left to centre to centre-right. The alliance needs to be more inclusive and cohesive to be able to take on the BJP juggernaut.

Kangayam R. Narasimhan,
Chennai

With hardly a few months left between the State and general elections, one does not know how the INDIA grand alliance will fare even if it materialises. The statements and flip-flops by various leaders will prove to be counterproductive. The Aam Aadmi Party and the Trinamool Congress have all along mistrusted the grand old party and have not minced words about this. One feels INDIA is trying to present a brave face despite many serious obstacles.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu

Bobby Charlton

In the passing of Bobby Charlton, England has lost a football icon. He was a vital cog in England's victorious 1966 World Cup squad. He never received a red card in a long first-class career, and his humility, discipline, and fair play won him many admirers.

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

The photo caption accompanying the story titled "Indian Navy gets warship with space for women officers four months ahead of time" (some editions, October 21, 2023) erroneously said 'Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu is with MDL Chairman-Managing Director Sanjeev Singhal'. The person who is with Mr. Singhal is Commanding Officer (Desig.) Captain K.K. Choudhary.

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A massive intelligence failure in Israel

Ramanathan Kumar

is former Special Secretary, R&AW. Views are personal

No words can be strong enough to condemn the massacres carried out in Israel by Hamas, the Gaza-based Palestinian terrorist organisation. A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in the densely populated Gaza Strip as Israel, expectedly, responds with the full might of its armed forces.

The scale and complexity of the attack indicated that Hamas had been meticulously planning it for months. The cross-border incursion across the hi-tech fence separating southern Israel from Gaza began with rocket fire and involved the use of dinghies, bulldozers, motorcycles, paragliders, and drones bearing explosives. Hamas fighters targeted civilian settlements and a military intelligence hub. Israel's inability to detect signs of the impending assault and take preventive action represents a catastrophic intelligence failure. Like 9/11 in the U.S. and 26/11 in India, October 7, 2023 in Israel signifies the horrors of terrorism.

Failure on multiple fronts

At the level of intelligence collection, Israel does not seem to have had human spies penetrating Hamas in any meaningful manner. This is a familiar shortcoming in intelligence agencies worldwide, which seek to recruit moles in ideologically driven terrorist organisations. Israel's formidable array of electronic sensors and surveillance systems along the border did not work. This failure is being attributed to the high order of communications security practiced by Hamas, which presumably avoided the use of phones and other forms of digital communication that are susceptible to interception. It has been suggested that any movement of Hamas fighters near the border before the attack may have been discounted by Israeli monitors as nothing more than gamesmanship intended to test Israeli nerves. If so, Hamas seems to have succeeded in lulling Israel into a false sense of normalcy.

Second, much like 50 years ago, when an attack by the armies of Egypt and Syria during the Yom Kippur festival caught Israel unawares, the available intelligence may have been misinterpreted. In 1973, Israeli defence intelligence had assessed that Egypt and Syria were not likely to resort to war until they upgraded their air force, although Mossad chief Zvi Zamir, whose agent in the Egyptian leadership had warned him of an imminent attack, had informed Prime Minister Golda Meir of the same. In today's context, Israeli intelligence may have believed that Hamas' exercise of political control over Gaza since 2007 had made the group pragmatic and that continued financial aid from Qatar and the grant of permits to Palestinian daily wagers to work in Israel were sufficient incentives for Hamas to refrain from initiating large-scale conflict. Any evidence of attack preparations by Hamas could have been underplayed due to this 'confirmation bias'.

The most serious charge of failure pertains to the weakening of institutions and the politicisation of intelligence. The gravamen of this charge is that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cynically pursued a policy of 'divide and conquer' by propping up the Islamist Hamas to undercut its rival and secular-nationalist Palestinian faction Fatah, which exercises a semblance of control over the West Bank through the Palestinian Authority. Unlike Hamas, which stands for the destruction of the Jewish state, the Palestinian Authority favours a negotiated, two-state solution. Mr. Netanyahu is alleged to have employed the tactic of undermining the Palestinian Authority to scuttle the two-state solution by arguing that Israel has no credible 'partner for peace' among the Palestinians; in effect, making Palestine a 'problem with no solution.' This ploy enabled him to retain the support of the right-wing and religious parties, which his coalition government had been dependent on for its survival. Representatives of these parties in his government also demanded more resources for policing the occupied West Bank where Israeli settlers, mainly right-wing supporters, live among the Palestinians who are in a majority. Israel's security services could have been blind-sided by these political pressures and taken their eyes off the threat from Hamas.

> The scale and complexity of the attack on October 7 indicated that Hamas had been planning it meticulously for months

Hamas' objective

What did Hamas hope to achieve through this attack? Was it to remind the world of the Palestine issue amid the unprecedented thaw in relations between Israel and the Arab states including Saudi Arabia? Was it retribution for the pain inflicted by Israel on Palestinians? Or was it to puncture the myth of Israel's invincibility? Was the operation green-lighted at recent meetings in Lebanon between representatives of Hamas and Hezbollah, and Iranian Brigadier Esmail Qaani, as some reports suggest? Or was it the exclusive handiwork of Hamas 'hard-liners' led by Muhammad Diab Al-Nasri and Yahya Sinwar? Did the 'judicial reforms' of the Netanyahu government, which had a corrosive impact on Israel's military preparedness, embolden Hamas? Can a policy of eliminating Hamas, the central objective of Israel's anticipated ground offensive in Gaza, succeed? Do the U.S.'s military campaign in Afghanistan, Israel's experience in southern Lebanon, or the persistence of the ideology of the Islamic State despite the physical eradication of its so-called Caliphate offer any lessons in this regard? Definite answers to these questions may only emerge with time, possibly after a full-fledged inquiry is held in Israel. At a more fundamental level, the latest outbreak of violence reminds us yet again that intractable conflicts steeped in decades of bloodshed can be resolved only through negotiation and dialogue between the parties concerned. The application of force and more force by one side or the other cannot be the answer.

Changing the script in Tamil Nadu

The future of special film shows appears to be bleak

STATE OF PLAY

Udhav Naig
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The release of actor Joseph Vijay's *Leo*, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and produced by S.S. Lalit Kumar and Seven Screen Studio, on October 19 following a case in the Madras High Court has exposed the ingenious workaround created by exhibitors and distributors to overcome the Tamil Nadu government's leash on the business of the film industry.

Since January 2023, the State government has denied permission for early morning shows citing law-and-order concerns. Two weeks ago, the State government passed an order stating that theatres can hold one extra show (a fifth show) for *Leo* every day for six days starting October 19 given the high demand. The order said the first show could be screened at 9 a.m. Seven Screen Studio approached the Madras High Court seeking a direction to the State government to permit a special 4 a.m. show on the day of the film's release and to permit five shows a day from 7 a.m. (instead of 9 a.m.) between October 19 and 24.

In the last few decades, the exhibition and distribution business has changed dramatically. Thanks to digital cinema, the distribution of Tamil films across the world is now possible at a reasonable cost. But this has also meant that distributors and exhibitors have to make their money within the first few days before possible negative reviews succeed in changing the fortunes of a film.

Leading distributors say that early morning shows were started to enable students and young office-goers

to watch the 'first day, first show' of films starring their favourite actors without having to take a day off. However, the 4 a.m. shows became an opportunity for fans to "celebrate" the release of such films, making this a uniquely Tamil Nadu phenomenon. TV channels would often report on the celebrations during the release of films featuring big stars, especially Rajinikanth.

While there was tremendous demand from fans to watch the 'first day, first show,' the ticket price of around ₹215 in a multiplex, and lower in tier II cities, could not be justified in the marketplace. Many people in the industry say the early morning shows, screened in about 50 single-screen theatres in Tamil Nadu, were a way of resolving this market anomaly. Prices higher than what was mandated by the State government were charged from fans who were willing to pay a premium.

Distributors say that a film with a big star would make ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore per special show. If the theatres were allowed to screen 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. shows for *Leo*, industry estimates suggest that distributors could have made ₹2 crore-₹3 crore from special shows alone. In the absence of special shows, the producer of *Leo* sought a higher share in the revenue from theatres.

Successive State governments have looked the other way regarding early morning shows. But reports of theatres selling tickets at exorbitant prices, the unruly behaviour of fans (milkmen have complained that fans stole their milk to pour on actors' cut-outs), and consequent traffic issues may have forced the hand of the State government to regulate this phenomenon.

The final nail in the coffin came when Vijay's Varisu and actor Ajith's Thunivu released on the same day in January. The death of a fan and the congregation of a large number of fans of both the popular actors together inside the theatres reportedly caused a situation which could have led to a State-wide law-and-order issue. This is one of the reasons why the government appears to have refused the request of Seven Screen Studio to allow a 4 a.m. show and to start regular shows at 7 a.m.

In a written response, Home Secretary P. Amudha explained the government's decision taking into account the views of the Commissioner of Revenue Administration (CRA) and the Director General of Police (DGP). The CRA said that there was a possibility that overcrowding and traffic congestion could affect public safety if the movie was allowed to be screened before 9 a.m. The DGP said that if shows were permitted from 7 a.m. onwards, the police would have to provide security from 5 a.m. Despite the government's insistence that shows be screened from 9 a.m., some theatres sold tickets for as high as ₹1,000 for *Leo* for the first show.

The future of special shows appears to be bleak. But many in the industry hope that the State government will agree to their long-pending demand of introducing flexible ticket pricing. This will help meet the demand from fans for 'first shows' while also increasing the government's tax receipts.

Five wars in 15 years have stifled Gaza's growth

With Israel repeatedly striking the Gaza Strip, which is among the densest places in the world, the death toll has already reached record levels

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Since the beginning of Israeli strikes following Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on October 7, over 4,700 people have died in the Gaza Strip, according to reports from the territory's leaders. Of these, close to 1,800 were children, says the Palestinian health ministry. Israeli strikes on Gaza have also left about 16,000 people injured.

The Gaza Strip, a financially strained Palestinian territory, has been under Israeli blockade since 2007. It is been under the governance of Hamas, which has engaged in war with Israel five times in the last 15 years. The Gaza Strip was occupied by Israel during the 1967 war and returned to Palestine fully in 2005. As Gaza shares its border with Israel in the north and east, Egypt in the south, and the Mediterranean Sea in the west, its entries and exits are heavily controlled. In 2007, Israel imposed an air, land, and sea blockade on Gaza. This means that except the Rafah entrance on the Egyptian border, every other point is controlled by Israel.

Due to such intense scrutiny on the movement of men and goods combined with years of bombardment, Gaza has not seen meaningful development in recent decades. The latest war with Israel is the fifth in the last 15 years, with the other four recorded in 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021. Each time, air strikes from Israel have flattened buildings and killed civilians. This has led to an increase in poverty levels.

The GDP per capita of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022 was $5,722. This was less than that of India ($7,096) and just above the GDP per capita of Pakistan ($5,452). Israel's GDP per capita was seven times higher at $44,272. **Chart 1** shows GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $).

The death toll in Gaza has already reached record levels. With over 4,700 casualties and counting, Hamas' fifth war with Israel has become the deadliest so far. The seven-week conflict in July-August 2014 killed about 2,250 Palestinians. While many children have died in the conflict, fertility levels in the region were among the highest in 2021 with 3.5 total births per woman. For comparison, India's fertility rate was 2.08 **(Chart 2A).**

The population density of the Gaza Strip is 6,019, making it one of the densest places in the world. Only four other places are more densely populated than Gaza – Macao, Monaco, Singapore, and Hong Kong. **Chart 2B** shows population density (people per sq. km of land area).

With a huge population, most of them children, the burden on adults to provide for them is very high. However, due to the poor presence of industry, Gaza suffers from chronic unemployment. More worryingly, only a small share of the population is even looking for jobs. The labour force participation rate (percentage of total population aged 15+ who were employed or looking for work) in the West Bank and Gaza in 2021 was 43%. If only the Gaza Strip is considered, it was even lower at 35%. These figures were among the lowest in the world. And of them only a small fraction was employed. In the West Bank and Gaza, the unemployment rate was 26% in 2021. In Gaza, it was 45% **(Chart 3A).**

While over 16,000 people are injured in Gaza, the region only has 13 hospital beds per 10,000 population, among the lowest in the world. It hints at the possibility of the death toll increasing much further given that the wounded may not get adequate treatment.

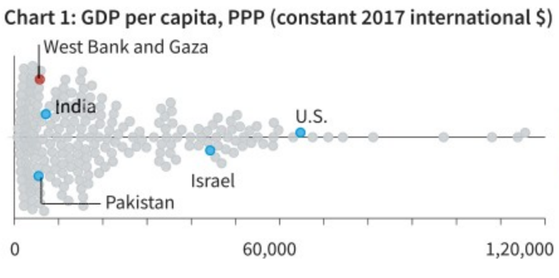
With inputs from AP, AFP and Reuters. This is the first of a three-part Data Point series on the Israel-Hamas conflict

The cost of wars

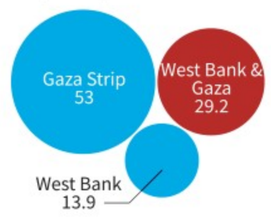
The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the World Health Statistics 2023, the Atlas of Sustainable Development 2020 and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

The charts shows how West Bank and Gaza fare in various socio-economic indicators. Some select countries have been highlighted for comparison

Chart 1: GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)

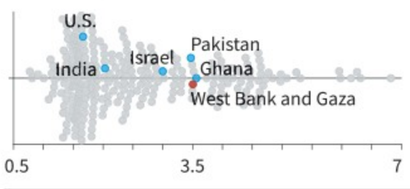


% of persons under poverty line

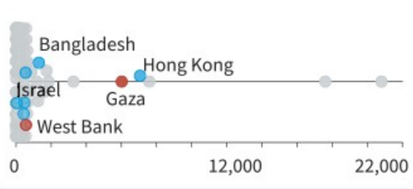


■ The latest war with Israel is the fifth for Hamas in the last 15 years, with the other four recorded in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2021. Each time, air strikes from Israel flattened buildings and killed civilians.
This has led to an increase in poverty levels in Gaza and West Bank

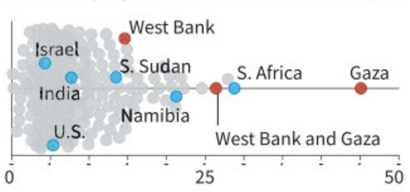
2A: Fertility rate (births per woman, 2021)



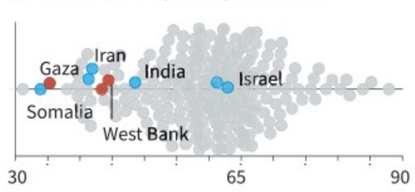
2B: Population density (people per sq. km)



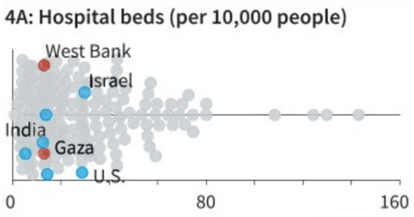
3A: Unemployment (% of total labour force)



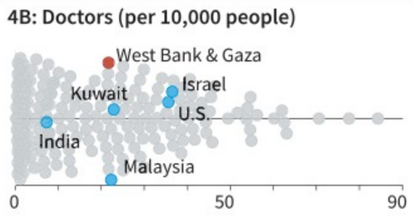
3B: Labour force participation rate



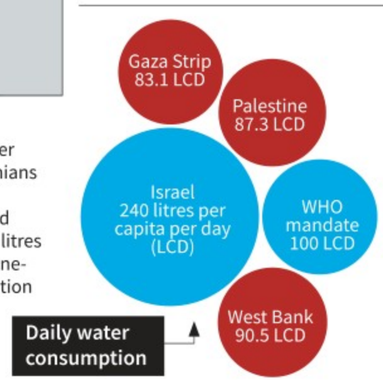
4A: Hospital beds (per 10,000 people)



4B: Doctors (per 10,000 people)



■ The average daily water consumption of Palestinians is less than the WHO's minimum recommended daily allowance. At 87.3 litres per capita per day it is one-third the daily consumption of Israel



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 23, 1973

Egypt and Israel end 17-day war

Beirut, Oct. 22: The Unied Nations ceasefire ending the 17-day war between Israel and Egypt officially went into effect on Monday night. At 22-42 hours I.S.T., an Israeli war correspondent reported from the frontline: "The central sector of the Suez Canal is quiet." The Egyptian Military Command ordered a ceasefire at 22-22 hours I.S.T., Cairo Radio said.

Earlier, both Israel and Egypt had accepted a joint Soviet-American resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council calling for an "in-place" ceasefire and peace negotiations. Syria, the main combatant on Israel's northern front, was silent on the resolution as the ceasefire deadline passed.

An hour before the ceasefire went into effect, Damascus radio said the ceasefire conditions had been studied by Syrian leaders. It gave no indication of Syria's intentions.

The broadcast gave the details of the Security Council proposal, and said it had been accepted by Egyptian President Sadat after careful study.

Iraq, with 12,000 troops helping the Syrians in the north, has rejected the ceasefire, while Jordan, which also has forces in this sector, has accepted it. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (Arab Commando movement) announced that it would continue the armed struggle against Israel.

A high-ranking Israeli military officer said in Tel Aviv: "There is no ceasefire on the Syrian front."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 23, 1923

India and the Empire

London, Oct. 22: Reuter understands that Dr. Sapru had a cordial interview with the Duke of Devonshire to-day, the latter promising to support Dr Sapru's proposals mentioned in the recent cables in the matter of the status of Indians overseas. Pourperiers between Dr. Sapru and Gen. Smuts have not definitely broken down and according to present indications a position seems to be crystalising in which South Africa may be isolated against the rest of the Empire on the Indian question. It is understood that Gen. Smuts categorically refused to agree to Dr. Sapru's proposal while Dr. Sapru decisively rejected the counter proposals put forth by Gen. Smuts.

From Page One

Israel pounds Gaza as a crisis unfolds in hospitals

Israel's retaliatory bombing campaign has killed more than 4,600 Palestinians, mainly civilians, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

More than 1,750 children have already been killed by Israeli strikes launched against the Gaza Strip in retaliation for the October 7 Hamas attacks.

Power is one of the main worries for the seven specialist wards across Gaza treating premature babies to help with breathing and provide critical support, for example when their organs are not developed enough.

Sunday's aid delivery through the Rafah crossing was the second such operation in two days after 20 trucks arrived on Saturday. The United Nations has estimated about 100 trucks per day are needed to meet the needs of 2.4 million Gazans.

India sends relief goods to civilian population

"An IAF C-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32 tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departs for El-Arish airport in Egypt. The material includes essential life-saving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulin, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets and other necessary items," said official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. Ambassador of Palestine Adnan Abu Alhaija has expressed his appreciation to the gesture and said the blockade of the last fortnight had stopped entry of essential items such as oxygen into the Gaza Strip. "People of Palestine will truly appreciate the Indian assistance as they are in need of urgent help after nearly 15 days of Israeli blockade which stopped electricity, food, medicine and oxygen. India is sending us help even without us asking. This is a great initiative," said Ambassador Al Haija. The Indian consignment landed in Egypt on Sunday where Ambassador Ajit V. Gupte handed over the supplies to the Egyptian Red Crescent "for onward transmission to Palestine", said Mr. Bagchi.

'Using officials as govt.'s *pracharaks* wrong'

He said the Enforcement Directorate, the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are already acting as "election departments of the BJP", and the orders put the entire government machinery to work "as if they were agents of the ruling party". "All agencies, institutions, arms, wings, and departments are now officially 'pracharaks'. In view of protecting our democracy and our Constitution, it is imperative that the above orders are withdrawn immediately," Mr. Kharge demanded. Mr. Kharge argued that the decision is a clear violation of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, which directs that no government servant shall take part in any political activity. He also cited an order by the Ministry of Defence, directing soldiers on annual leave to spend time on promoting government schemes, making them 'soldier-ambassadors'.

Canada's actions breach the Vienna Convention

"And right now, that is what has in many ways been challenged in Canada – that our people are not safe, our diplomats are not safe," Mr. Jaishankar said. "If we see progress there, I would like very much to resume the issue of visas," he added. He was speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here.

An informed source told *The Hindu* that India was reviewing the security situation that led to the suspension of visa services. Canada's position drew support from the U.S. and the U.K. A statement from the U.K.'s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on Friday said that India's move impacted the principles of the Vienna Convention, while the U.S. State Department said that the resolution of differences between the countries requires diplomats on the ground in India.

PPF returns 41 bps behind formula rates

With government bond yields hardening over the past month, economists say there may be some room for further hikes in the small savings rates in the penultimate quarter before the general election, that is, the January to March 2024 quarter. Small savings rates had been hiked ahead of the last Lok Sabha election in 2019, when the PPF rate was raised to 7.9%. In April 2020, these rates were cut across the board, and a further 40 to 110 bps reduction was announced for the April to June 2021 quarter, but was then withdrawn immediately. While correcting most schemes' returns gradually in each quarter since October 2022, the government has held back hikes for the PPF, with officials pointing to the tax-free returns they offer, unlike other SSIs. The rate offered on the Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme, which offers tax-free returns as well, was raised to 8% this April.

To curb evasion, EU report calls for 2% global wealth tax on billionaires

It will generate $250 bn from less than 3,000 individuals; report highlights success of automatic exchange of bank data in reducing offshore tax evasion; it raises concern over rise of preferential tax regimes targeting wealthy foreign individuals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The report calls for expanding the range of assets brought under the system of automatic exchange of information. GETTY IMAGES

Pointing out that tax evasion is enabling billionaires to enjoy effective tax rates equivalent to 0% to 0.5% of their wealth, the European Union Tax Observatory in its 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024' has called for a global minimum tax on billionaires equal to 2% of their wealth. This would both address evasion and "generate nearly $250 billion from less than 3,000 individuals", the report stated.

The report justified the proposal by noting that while the number of taxpayers affected by it would be miniscule, the tax rate for them (2%) "would still be very modest" given that the wealth of billionaires has grown at 7% a year annually on average since 1995 (net of inflation).

Assessing the impact of international efforts made so far to curb tax evasion, the report highlighted the success of one measure – the automatic exchange of bank information – in reducing offshore tax evasion by a factor of three over the past 10 years. The report observed that before this measure came into effect, "households owned the equivalent of 10% of world GDP in financial wealth in tax havens globally, the bulk of which was undeclared to tax authorities and belonged to high net worth individuals".

Two reasons

But today, there is still the equivalent of 10% of world GDP in offshore household financial wealth, but only 25% of it evades taxation. "This reduction in non-compliance is a major success that shows that rapid progress can be made against tax evasion if there is the political will to do so," the report stated. Despite this progress, offshore tax evasion continues, and the report identifies two reasons for it.

First, it is still possible to own financial assets that escape being reported on because not all offshore financial institutions comply with the requirement of automatic exchange of bank information – for fear of losing their customer base while facing no real threat or penalty from foreign tax authorities for non-compliance.

Second, wealthy individuals who used to hide financial assets in offshore banks have started shifting their holdings to asset classes not covered under this agreement, especially real estate.

The report, therefore, calls for expanding the range of assets brought under the system of automatic exchange of information.

Several loopholes

The other major measure – the global minimum tax of 15% on MNCs, adopted in 2012 by 140 countries and territories – has been a disappointment. While it was expected to increase global tax revenues by 10%, a growing list of loopholes has reduced expected revenues by a factor of two. The report red-flagged the trend of "greenwashing the global minimum tax" wherein MNCs can use 'green' tax credits for low carbon transition to reduce their tax rates way below the minimum of 15%.

"U.S. green-energy tax credits will amount to the equivalent of about 15% of U.S. corporate tax," the report noted.

The report also flags emerging forms of aggressive tax competition that are severely affecting government revenues.

It notes with concern the rise of preferential tax regimes targeting wealthy foreign individuals – their number having grown from five to 28 in the EU and the U.K.

Noting that "these regimes offer tax exemptions or reductions to incoming residents while preserving the general income tax schedule applied to domestic taxpayers", the report detailed the harm they caused, pointing out that "they weaken overall tax collection, because the adopting governments voluntarily forego tax revenues and because they inflict negative spillover effects to other countries".

Need to clear pending cases proactively, says top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has called for proactive steps to clear mounting pendency in courts, saying speedy justice is fast becoming a chimera for the 6% population involved in litigation.

A Bench headed by Justice S.R. Bhat, who retired this week, said in its order that delay tactics employed to prolong litigation is wearing out the patience and faith of the public in courts.

"There is an urgent need to take proactive steps to...clear the huge backlog of cases at all levels... It is imperative to note that about six per cent of the population in India is affected by litigation, in such a scenario the courts would play an important role in the life of a nation governed by the rule of law," the court observed.

The top court directed courts at district and taluka levels to ensure proper execution of the summons and in a time-bound manner. It also directed the setting of committees by the Chief Justices of the respective States to constantly monitor old cases pending for more than five years.

Gawate Akshay Laxman

Agniveer killed in line of duty in Siachen

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gawate Akshay Laxman – deployed at the Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield – has become the first Agniveer to be killed in the line of duty since the Agnipath scheme for the recruitment of soldiers was introduced.

"All ranks of Fire and Fury Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of Agniveer (Operator) Gawate Akshay Laxman, in the line of duty, in the unforgiving heights of Siachen and offer deepest condolences to the family," the Army's Leh-based 14 Corps posted on X on Sunday.

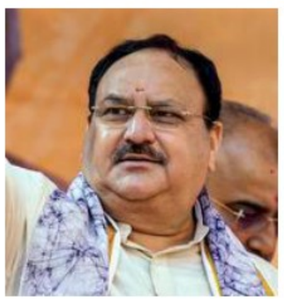
The report of his death led to sharp criticism on social media from the veterans community, as many pointed out the disparity between Agniveers and regular soldiers, whose families are entitled to pensions and other benefits if they die while on duty.

As per the terms of engagement of Agniveers, in case of demise as a battle casualty, the next of kin receive ₹48 lakh non-contributory insurance, an *ex gratia* of ₹44 lakh, and the 30% of the salary contributed by the Agniveer to the Seva Nidhi scheme, with equal matching contribution by the government, plus interest.

They will also get the balance pay owed from the date of death till the completion of their four years' tenure (in this case, that amounts to more than ₹13 lakh), and a contribution of ₹8 lakh from the Armed Forces Battle Casualty Fund, Army sources said.

For Cong. it may be an 'alien concept', but public service delivery is govt. duty: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



J.P. Nadda

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Sunday said governance was an "alien concept" for the Congress. He was reacting to a letter by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi objecting to a government order asking senior officers to be deployed as "*Rath Prabharis*" in various districts to showcase the achievements of the government.

"It baffles me to see the Congress party has an issue with public servants reaching the grassroots to ensure saturation of schemes," Mr. Nadda said on X, asking, "If this not the basic tenet of governance, what is?"

The BJP chief added that "it may be an alien concept for the Congress, but public service delivery is the duty of a government".

"If the (Narendra) Modi government wants to ensure saturation of all schemes and ensure all beneficiaries are reached, nobody who has the interest of the poor in their mind can have a problem," he said. "But, the Congress only has an interest in keeping the poor in poverty and hence, their opposition to the saturation drive," he said.

Hitting out at the Congress, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya wrote on X, "Who said bureaucrats in the government of India are not meant to talk about the programmes and schemes implemented?".

"Just because five States are going to polls and general elections are seven months away, should we abandon governance?" he asked.

Even as the Gujarat Chief Minister, irrespective of elections, Mr. Modi ensured his bureaucrats went out in the field during June-July to ensure all school-going children enrolled, he said. "It ensured universal education in Gujarat," he said.

Similarly in the next six months, Mr. Modi wants complete saturation of welfare schemes like the PM Awas Yojana (Grameen), National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Kisan, Fasal Bima Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Janaushadhi Yojana, and PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, he added.

Mahua has clarified stance to Trinamool leadership: O'Brien

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Derek O'Brien

The Trinamool Congress made it clear on Sunday that it would not comment on the allegations of "cash for query" against Mahua Moitra, MP. The Trinamool Leader of the Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien, said the party would wait for the parliamentary panel to probe the allegations.

Mr. O'Brien, in a statement to a news agency, said the party had observed reports in the media. "The member concerned has been advised by the party leadership to clarify her position regarding the allegations levelled against her. She has already done that," he said, making it clear that the party had sought clarification from Ms. Moitra.

'Appropriate decision'

"However, since the matter has to do with an elected MP, her rights and privileges, let the matter be investigated by the right forum of Parliament – after which the party leadership will take an appropriate decision," Mr. O'Brien said.

The BJP has demanded a probe against Ms. Moitra for allegedly asking questions in Parliament against the Adani Group to favour another company. Ms. Moitra has maintained that she was being targeted by the BJP regime for exposing various illegal activities of the Adani Group.

15 Ministers find place in Congress second list for Rajasthan poll

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The ruling Congress on Sunday announced its second list of 43 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly election. The party has repeated 15 Ministers as well as Deputy Chief Whip Mahendra Choudhary from their seats. It has fielded former Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya from the reserved constituency of Sojat.

The party has so far announced 76 candidates for the Assembly election. The first list of 33 candidates, including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, was released on Saturday. The second list also includes five Independents who had supported the Gehlot government during its political crisis of 2020.

The Ministers on the list include B.D. Kalla (Bikaner West), Pratap Singh Khachariyawas (Civil Lines, Jaipur), Parsadi Lal Meena (Lalsot), Govind Ram Meghwal (Khajuwala), Sukhram Bishnoi (Sanchore), Udai Lal Anjana (Nimbahera), Shakuntala Rawat (Bansur), and Pramod Jain Bhaya (Anta). Among the Ministers fielded again from their constituencies, only Brijendra Ola (Jhunjhunu) is considered a loyalist of Sachin Pilot. While Ramgarh MLA Shafia Zubair has been replaced by her husband Zubair Khan, the party has given ticket from Nokha to Sushila Dudi, wife of former MLA Rameshwar Dudi.

Cong. announces third and final list of 7 candidates for Chhattisgarh Assembly poll

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The party has covered all 90 Assembly segments and has replaced 22 MLAs

The ruling Congress on Sunday released its third and final list of seven candidates for the Chhattisgarh Assembly election scheduled for next month.

Having already announced 83 candidates in two lists of 30 and 53 earlier, the party has covered all 90 Assembly segments in the State. The party has replaced 22 MLAs in total with new candidates.

Of the seven seats for which the party named candidates on Sunday, the Congress won six in 2018. It has, however, dropped four MLAs. The two MLAs who retained their candidature are Ambica Singh Deo from Baikunthpur and Kuldeep Juneja from Raipur (North).

In Dhamtari, which the Congress lost in 2018, it has gone with a new candidate. Two of the seven seats in the third list are from the reserved constituencies – one each for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

In the five general seats, the party has fielded three OBC candidates, two among them from the numerically powerful Sahu community. Of the 90 candidates, 33 are from the Scheduled Tribes, 29 from the Other Backward Classes, 10 from the Scheduled Castes, and 15 from the general categories. Three candidates are from the minority communities.

The changes in the earlier lists had drawn the ire of candidates who failed to make the cut. The most vocal among them is Brihaspat Singh who has targeted Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo, even going on to the extent of accusing him of having reached a compromise with the BJP. The two share an acrimonious past.

The BJP, the main Opposition in the State, has announced 86 candidates.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

BJP wants action against Cong. nominees

The Opposition BJP in Chhattisgarh has filed a complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer in Raipur on Saturday seeking action against 83 Congress candidates, alleging they had not furnished their criminal record details to the Election Commission (EC).

The Congress, however, said the BJP was levelling false allegations against the ruling party candidates.

A Congress spokesperson said the party had not given ticket to people with "criminal tendencies" and that they would fulfil the EC criteria.

The BJP has cited a Supreme Court order in the complaint, under which political parties must submit criminal antecedents of candidates to the EC within 48 hours of their selection, BJP State leader Jaiprakash Chandravanshi said in a statement. PTI

The BJP has cited a Supreme Court order asking parties to submit candidates' criminal records to the poll panel.

173 names pass EC scrutiny in Mizoram

Nomination papers of 173 candidates out of 174 filed for 40 Assembly constituencies in Mizoram were found valid during scrutiny, officials said on Sunday.

The nomination paper of Opposition party Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) nominee Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah who seeks to contest from the Lawngtlai East constituency is being re-scrutinised because of some discrepancies, they said.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 23.

The ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), main Opposition ZPM and the Congress have fielded candidates in all 40 seats each and all of them have submitted their nomination papers. The BJP has fielded its nominees in 23 seats, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in four. Besides, 27 candidates are contesting as Independents. PTI

"There is a lot of difference in running the govt. and talking too much. A commission raj prevails in Madhya Pradesh under CM Chouhan

KAMAL NATH
Congress leader

Gehlot's OSD meets Pilot, discusses polls

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Lokesh Sharma, on Sunday met Congress leader Sachin Pilot, a day after the party released its first list of 33 candidates for the November 25 Assembly election. Mr. Sharma said discussions on Assembly elections were held during the meeting. PTI

"Ashok Gehlot clung on to his chair throughout his tenure, his entire focus was on saving his chair. There was no one to take care of the people

ARUN SINGH
BJP's Rajasthan in-charge

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan speaks at a public meeting in Raisen on Sunday. PTI

Sanatana Dharma row finds an echo in far-off Bhopal

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday continued his attacks on the Congress and the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) saying that the members of the bloc wanted to "eradicate" Sanatana Dharma, in a reference to the controversial remarks made by Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin in September.

At a rally in Mauganj, Mr. Chouhan said that a "nervous Congress" was now forming alliances with different parties as it knew it could not defeat the BJP. "They formed the INDIA alliance and the people of this alliance are saying that Sanatana Dharma is malaria and dengue and we will have to eradicate it," the BJP leader said, asking the crowd if the religion could be eradicated.

In September, Mr. Udhayanidhi, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagamchief M.K. Stalin, had said at a conference of progressive writers in Chennai that Sanatana Dharma is like "dengue and malaria" and "needed to be eradicated". "Such things should not be opposed, but destroyed," he had said.

His remarks had triggered a political row, with several BJP leaders accusing him of calling for a "genocide of 80% of India's population". The Congress had to distance itself from Mr. Udhayanidhi's remarks, with party spokesperson Pawan Khera saying that the party believes every religion and faith has its space and no one can treat any particular faith as less than another.

Asking the public if they would let Sanatana Dharma be eradicated, Mr. Chouhan said, "What will you do, Congress*iyon* (Congress leaders)? Many came and left but nobody could lift a finger at Sanatana." Mr. Chouhan also compared himself and BJP leaders to Goddess Durga, and said that they will not forgive those who loot the public. "On Durgashtami (eighth day of Hindu festival Navaratri), it is our resolution that we will not forgive who snatch the people's rights," he said.

While BJP leaders in the State continue to appeal to its core Hindutva voters every now and then highlighting issues such as construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Congress has tried to play the "soft Hindutva" card through its promises and reduce the polarisation of votes in the BJP's favour. The party waited till the end of *Pitru Paksha* (considered inauspicious to start something new in Hinduism) and only released its first list of candidates on the first day of Navaratri. The State Congress president and chief ministerial candidate, Kamal Nath, made it clear several times and also attacked the BJP for releasing one of its list during Shraddh.

In its manifesto, the Congress has promised that the party's government will buy cow dung at ₹2 a kg from *gaushalas* under Nandini Gau-Dhan Yojana, and to open more such cow shelters. In an attempt to counter the BJP's Ram temple pitch, the party has promised to construct the route taken by Lord Ram during his exile, increase the salaries of Hindu priests and others.

The Congress is unlikely to hurt its Muslim vote share in Madhya Pradesh as the community is not considered as politically significant as it is in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The Congress has fielded two Muslim candidates – Atif Aqueel from Bhopal North and Arif Masood from Bhopal Central.

Mizoram contest animated by distant thunder in Myanmar and Manipur

For five elections since 1998, a major issue was the call to disenfranchise the minority Bru people who fled to Tripura following ethnic violence; now Mizoram faces a refugee crisis after the coup in Myanmar; more than 12,500 Kuki-Zo people displaced from Manipur have taken refuge in the State

IN FOCUS

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Nowhere in India are elections so colourless as in Mizoram, where the influential church – mostly Presbyterian – and community-based NGOs issue stricter dos and don'ts than the Election Commission does. The lack of colour and hyperbole, however, is compensated to some extent by strong ethnic passions in a State wary of the *vai*, a term that refers to any non-Mizo residing in Mizoram.

Mizos, meaning people of Zo origin, are the dominant community in Mizoram, almost all of whom follow Christianity.

For five elections since 1998, an issue that has partially influenced polls in Mizoram was the call by certain sections to disenfranchise the minority Bru people who fled to Tripura following ethnic violence in 1997. The issue was buried in January 2020, when the Union government facilitated the permanent settlement of nearly 34,000 Brus displaced from Mizoram in adjoining Tripura. What Tripura faced for more than two decades, Mizoram began experiencing after the military coup in neighbouring Myanmar in February 2021. Thousands of Chin people, fleeing the civil war in Myanmar, began pouring into the State. In November 2022, a few hundred Kuki-Chin also took refuge in Mizoram after fleeing alleged persecution in Bangladesh.

The Chins, Kuki-Chins, and the Kuki-Zo people of Manipur are ethnically related to the Mizos.

Despite the Union government's indifference to the refugee crisis in Mizoram, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) has played the humanitarian card to make the Myanmar and Bangladesh nationals feel at home. This did not seem to have worked for them, as the MNF, battling an anti-incumbency trend, charges of nepotism, corruption, and fiscal crisis, suffered an electoral setback in central Mizoram in April. The extremist outfit-turned-political party, which won 27 of the 40 Assembly seats in 2018, lost all 11 seats in the Lunglei Municipal Council to the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

Seat share

The table shows the past poll results for Mizoram's 40 State Assembly constituencies. In the 2018 election, Mizo National Front emerged as the single-largest party with 27 seats

Poll ready: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with supporters during a *Padayatra* in Aizawl, Mizoram. PTI

Party	Seats	Vote share
MNF*	27	37.7%
INC	4	29.98%
BJP	1	8.09%
IND	8	22.94%

** Mizo National Front*

Total number of seats: **40**
Seats reserved for STs: **39**
Number of electors: **8,56,868**
Electors aged between 18-19: **50,611**
Date of poll: **Nov. 7, 2023**
Date of counting: **Dec. 3, 2023**

The ZPM – which displaced the Congress as the State's main Opposition party in 2018 by winning eight seats, with its candidates contesting as Independents – had given the MNF a run for its money in 2021 by penetrating areas in Chief Minister Zoramthanga's Assembly constituency of Aizawl East-1, although it had bagged only six of the 19 Aizawl Municipal Corporation seats. Mr. Zoramthanga, a former extremist hardened by guerilla warfare, is a long-term president of the MNF.

Just as things appeared to be going south for the MNF, the Kuki-Meitei clash in Manipur happened in May. Over the weeks, more than 12,500 Kuki-Zo people displaced from Manipur have taken refuge in Mizoram.

Mr. Zoramthanga took the lead in expressing the Mizo angst against the alleged ethnic cleansing of the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur and supporting the demand for a separate administration for them. It appeared to have helped the MNF steal a march on its political rivals at home, though Mr. Zoramthanga said it was his party's performance on the development front that carry weight in voters' minds.

ZPM president Lalduhoma, a former IPS officer, said that the MNF's claim to be the only party pursuing "Zo unification" (bringing all areas inhabited by the Zo people together) was aimed only at garnering votes. "All political parties in Mizoram are equally concerned about Manipur's Kuki-Zo people, and stand in solidarity with them," he said.

Mr. Lalduhoma also accused the MNF of doublespeak by maintaining its friendship with the BJP at the Centre, even while opposing the "saffron agendas". Loosely formed and unrecognised in 2018, the ZPM is believed to have shaped up as the strongest challenger of the MNF. Based on its performances in local elections, the ZPM claims to have gained ground.

The Congress – which will contest polls in the State for the first time without five-time Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla helming its campaign – hopes to stage a comeback under new president Lalsawta, a former Minister. The party is banking on a mix of youth and experience, exuding confidence by not buckling under pressure from an influential Mizo Students' Union to drop Meriam L. Hrangchal as its candidate from the Lunglei South constituency. The Union had asked all parties not to field women married to non-Mizos. The BJP obeyed the diktat and replaced Judy Zohmingliani with a male candidate for the Tuivawl seat.

Ms. Zohimgliani is married to an Anglo-Indian. Ms. Hrangchal is married to a Gurkha.

BJP struggles to contain rebellion in Rajasthan as cadres protest over ticket

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Protests by the BJP workers spilled over to the streets at half-a-dozen places in Rajasthan on Sunday after the announcement of the second list of the party's candidates for the November 25 State Assembly elections. Supporters of local leaders, who were denied ticket, gave voice to their resentment and demanded that "outsiders" fielded in their constituencies be sent back.

The BJP has named 83 candidates in its second list released on Saturday, taking the total number of nominees announced so far to 124. Party workers staged protests in Chittorgarh, Rajsamand, Bundi, Alwar, Udaipur, and Jaipur, raising slogans against BJP State president C.P. Joshi, while several office-bearers of the party's district units tendered their resignations.

Chittorgarh MLA Chandrabhan Singh Aakya, dropped from the seat, held Mr. Joshi responsible for denial of ticket to him and said the party would suffer because of the decision. Mr. Aakya's supporters burnt Mr. Joshi in effigy in the town, which is his native place and Lok Sabha constituency. The security at Mr. Joshi's residence in Madhuban Colony was strengthened after some youth hurled stones.

BJP supporters protest in Jaipur on October 13 demanding ticket for their favourite candidates for the election. ANI

BJP has named 83 candidates in its second list, taking the total number of nominees to 124

The BJP has fielded former Minister Narpat Singh Rajvi from Chittorgarh after shifting him from Jaipur's Vidyadhar Nagar, where Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari has been given ticket. Mr. Rajvi – the son-in-law of former Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat – had expressed resentment over his replacement in the first list, though he had earlier won the Chittorgarh seat twice.

The supporters of ticket aspirants Dinesh Badala, Ganesh Paliwal and Mahendra Kothari vandalised the BJP office in Rajsamand in protest against the fielding of Deepti Maheshwari, MLA, from the seat. The police controlled the situation after protesters ransacked election-related material, damaged furniture, and burnt tyres on the road in front of the party office.

Mr. Joshi said the party's candidates were being selected through a rigorous process involving "collective decision". "People have enthusiasm and faith in the BJP after the release of lists... We are like a family," Mr. Joshi said.

Support for disgruntled BJP, Congress leaders spurs protests across M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Protests by angry supporters of BJP and Congress leaders who failed to secure ticket for the Assembly election continued across Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

Videos surfaced of several supporters of BJP leader and former MLA Munnalal Goyal, who was denied ticket from the Gwalior East constituency, gathering outside the residence of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Mr. Goyal was one of the 22 Scindia-loyalist MLAs who had walked out of the Congress government in March 2020 and helped bring it down.

Mr. Goyal, however, had lost the following byelection. This time around, the party decided to field Maya Singh from the constituency.

As Mr. Goyal's supporters created a ruckus outside the palace, Mr. Scindia had to step out to talk to them. He tried to pacify the angry supporters even as they continued sloganeering and even lay down in front of his car.

Meanwhile, several women Congress workers, supporters of party leader Deepti Singh who had sought ticket from Bhopal's Govindpura Assembly constituency, staged a sit-in at the Pradesh Congress Committee office in the State capital. The Congress has fielded Ravindra Sahu from the seat against sitting BJP MLA Krishna Gaur, the daughter-in-law of former Chief Minister Babulal Gaur.

The two parties are now busy trying to get a grip on the situation and convince the disgruntled leaders.

Earlier on Saturday, soon after the BJP released its fifth list of 92 candidates, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav was heckled by angry BJP workers at Jabalpur party office.

The angry workers, supporters of party leader Sharad Jain who was denied ticket from the Jabalpur-North seat, also beat up a security person, as shown in viral videos.

Several leaders in both parties, including former MLAs and office-bearers, have resigned in the past few days in protest against candidate selection for the November 17 State elections.

Congress workers stage a protest against the distribution of ticket at the residence of M.P. State president Kamal Nath on Sunday. PTI

The two parties are busy trying to get a grip on the situation and convince discontent leaders

INBRIEF

Govt. evacuates 141 Indians and two Nepalese from Israel

A special flight carrying 143 persons, including two Nepal citizens and four infants, wanting to leave Israel amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, left for India on Sunday. It was the sixth flight as part of Operation Ajay launched on October 12 to facilitate the return of those Indian nationals who wish to return home following the brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants from Gaza on October 7. Eighteen Nepalese nationals were earlier accommodated on the special flight. PTI

Two pilots injured as training aircraft crashes at Baramati

A pilot and his trainer were injured after a training aircraft crashed at Baramati in Pune district on Sunday. According to authorities, a Tecnam aircraft, belonging to Redbird Flight Training Academy, crashed during a training session at Gojubavi village, 10 km from Baramati, a little after 7.30 a.m. while attempting to land. The cause of the crash has been attributed to technical failure, sources said. Both instructor and trainee, who suffered injuries, are safe and undergoing treatment at a hospital, said police authorities, adding that an investigation was on.

Two experiments conducted by ISRO paved way for Gaganyaan test mission

The first forerunner to the TV-D1 mission was conducted in 2007 when an orbiting satellite was brought back to earth, and the second one happened in 2014, when the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 placed a 3.75-tonne crew module in a sub-orbital altitude of 126 km and left it to descend

T.S. Subramanian

There were two important forerunners to the success of the Test Vehicle Abort Mission (TV-D1) flight that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) conducted on Saturday. During the test, an unmanned crew module was brought back safely to earth after launching it on a small rocket and simulating an emergency abort command. The test and its forerunners are the ISRO's first major steps towards launching humans to orbit as part of its Gaganyaan mission.

The TV-D1 test was carried out smoothly, especially given that the ISRO had to overcome a glitch five seconds before lift-off at 8.45 a.m., when the ground computer, called the Automatic Launch Sequence, halted the lift-off. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said it issued a "hold" when it detected a non-conformity "for allowing the engine to continue thrusting to further go. This happened due to a monitoring anomaly in the system". He added: "We could identify [the anomaly] very, very fast and correct it ... It took us some time to refill the gases...", after which the launch was rescheduled for 10 a.m.

Safe and dry: The crew module aboard an Indian Navy vessel after the abort mission test. X/ISRO

The first forerunner to the TV-D1 mission was the ISRO's Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1). An orbiting satellite called the SRE was brought back to earth on January 22, 2007, after a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) placed it in orbit on January 10. In a series of manoeuvres, the shuttlecock-shaped SRE came down from an altitude of 635 km to splash down into the Bay of Bengal, 140 km from Sriharikota, where the Coast Guard recovered it. India, thus, successfully brought back an orbiting satellite in its first attempt.

The descent manoeuvres included sophisticated braking systems, deceleration techniques, and the deployment of parachutes. Overall, the SRE-1 mission showcased the ISRO's mastery of reentry technology.

B.N. Suresh, former Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thumba, said, "The satellite looked as fresh as it was when we gave it for integration with the PSLV for the launch", after it survived its fiery reentry.

The SRE-1 was India's first big step towards sending an Indian astronaut into space and bringing them back safely. Former ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair had said, "This is a humble step towards sending an Indian into space." B.R. Guruprasad, a former ISRO official and a science writer, had said then, "Nothing symbolises the ascent of India in science and technology as the return of SRE-1."

Second forerunner

The second forerunner to the TV-D1 mission happened on December 18, 2014, when the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM-3) placed the 3.75-tonne unmanned crew module in a sub-orbital altitude of 126 km, and left it to descend. The module knifed through the earth's atmosphere and also survived re-entry. Its parachutes deployed and soon it was bobbing in the Bay of Bengal, about 700 km from Port Blair. This test, called Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE), marked India's second step towards sending its astronauts into space and getting them back.

Dr. Guruprasad said while the SRE weighed about 555 kg, the unmanned crew module in CARE weighed nearly seven times as much. In TV-D1, the module weighed 200 kg more, a full four tonnes.

The TV-D1 also had three other highlights. According to Dr. Guruprasad, they were a standalone liquid booster rocket launching for the first time from Indian soil; the successful performance of the Crew Escape System that pulled the crew module away from the launch vehicle; and the crew module reorienting itself before landing in the Bay.

SP, Cong. have no ideological basis to fight BJP, says BSP

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Sunday attacked the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), saying that the recent mudslinging between the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners showed that both parties had no ideological basis to fight the BJP and were in alliance only to gain power.

Akash Anand, BSP national coordinator, said on X, "In Uttar Pradesh, the base of the SP has eroded and Akhilesh Yadav is losing credibility. The Muslim community voted for the SP against BJP in the 2022 Assembly polls, but now everyone believes that they made a mistake by voting for the SP".

Tensions mounted between the Congress and the SP after seat-sharing talks for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly poll failed, leading to both parties fielding candidates against each other in 20 seats.

Army to start phasing out Cheetah, Chetak helicopters from 2027

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Army will start phasing out the first lot of vintage Cheetah and Chetak helicopters from 2027 on completion of their total technical life, as it looks to induct the indigenous light utility helicopters (LUHs) to replace them, according to defence sources. The armed forces have been attempting to replace the Cheetah and Chetak helicopters for well over a decade.

In November 2021, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 12 limited series production (LSP) variants of the LUH at a cost of around ₹1,500 crore, six each for the Army and the Air Force. The choppers have been designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), but the project was delayed due to issues with the autopilot.

"The issue with the autopilot of the LUHs has been addressed and the trials by the HAL have commenced. The six LSP LUHs are expected to be delivered to the Army between December 2024 and June 2025. The bigger contract for LUHs is expected to be concluded by January 2024 and deliveries expected by 2026 onwards," a source said. In the interim, the Army is also looking to lease 20 utility helicopters to address the shortage.

The Army currently has 190 Cheetah, Chetak and Cheetal helicopters. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Army currently has 190 Cheetah, Chetak, and Cheetal helicopters of the original 246. Of these, at any given time, around 25 are at the HAL for maintenance, which is a deficiency of around 37% in this segment, the source said. Close to 130 of the 190 choppers are between 30 and 50 years old.

Of the 190 Cheetah and Chetak in service, around 134 helicopters, or over 70%, are over 30 years old, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier. In addition to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force operate these helicopters. For instance, the Air Force has around 120 Cheetah and Chetak helicopters and 18 of the more recent Cheetals.

The light helicopter fleet is the lifeline in transporting supplies and for evacuations in high-altitude areas such as the Siachen glacier. The commitments on the northern borders have significantly gone up since the 2020 stand-off.

The Army also operates around 145 indigenous advanced light helicopters (ALHs), 75 of which are the Rudra-weaponised variants. Another 25 ALH Mk-III are on order.

In July, the Army issued a Request for Information for leasing 20 light helicopters for reconnaissance and surveillance for a period of five years, with the vendors asked to indicate the possibility of delivering all 20 helicopters within two years from the contract signing date.

In all, the Army and the Air Force together have a requirement of over 400 helicopters of this class. The LUH is a 3-tonne class helicopter with glass cockpit for reconnaissance and surveillance roles and as a light transport helicopter. The helicopter will be capable of flying at 220 kmph, with a service ceiling of 6.5 km and a range of 350 km with 400 kg payload, according to the HAL.

Plaques with names of Modi, Vice-Chancellor at Visva-Bharati trigger row

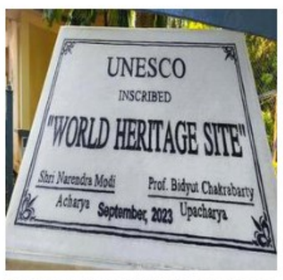
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A controversy has erupted over the installation of plaques at Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal to mark the UNESCO World Heritage Site tag for the Central university.

The plaques have the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "Acharya" (Chancellor) and Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty as the "Upacharya" but not of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, who founded the university.

The development has invited criticism not only from a section of faculty members but also from the Trinamool Congress.

"UNESCO specifically said they are honouring Rabindranath Tagore and his unique legacy by declaring Santiniketan as a World Heritage Site. A megalomaniac V-C and his boss seem to think UNESCO is honouring them!!," Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Jawhar Sircar said.



Santiketan gets World Heritage Site tag

According to the Visva-Bharati spokesperson, three such plaques, made of white marble, have been installed on the university campus.

On September 17, Santiniketan, a town set up by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. UNESCO credited "renowned poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore" for establishment of Santiniketan which is distinct from the "prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism", and represents approaches toward a pan-Asian modernity.

Irrelevant question

State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said that the relation between Tagore and Visva-Bharati need not be announced and some people were raising irrelevant questions.

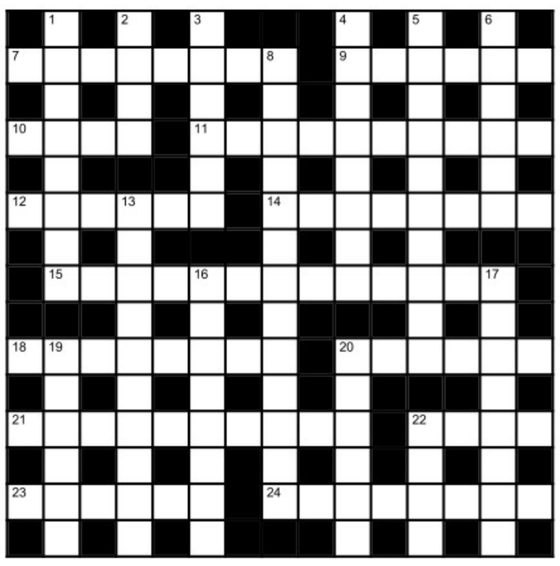
The development comes at a time when the university administration is at loggerheads with a section of faculty members and legal battles are being fought. In a recent development, the Calcutta High Court made scathing remarks against the Vice-Chancellor even going to the extent of calling for his removal. The university administration is also embroiled in a legal tussle with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, accusing that a portion of land on which the economist's ancestral house is built was illegally occupied.

TH CROSSWORD + 14002

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Exotic roses with aloe mostly in sprays (8)
9 Extremely healthy sound around animals (6)
10 Kept a heavily wrapped Egyptian God (4)
11 Oh dear! Best puzzles in newspaper (10)
12 Reverend's request: "Go worship and settle ahead of time" (6)
14 Attempt to control one evil triumvirate (8)
15 Setting aside a day, lecture smart newlyweds changing places (8,5)
18 Maya's got to exercise in anti-slip pads (4,4)
20 Cutting the end, contract length to sell (6)
21 Pet goes behind cafeteria - often he plays gently (10)
22 Pulse of average bachelor getting married (4)
23 Open global organization's fine website (6)
24 Every now and then the ODI team likes motivational videos (3,5)

Down

1 Bullied the man getting disheartened over time (8)
2 Android and human's first couple (4)
3 Old city of dabbawallas bringing one's meal, banana and yoghurt, for starters (6)
4 More hesitant to drink rum that's cheaper (8)
5 Lowest part of flask in bag (10)
6 Worry about that woman circumambulating God (6)
8 What bears do with honeyed treat that's nicely condensed (5,3,5)
13 Unsure of prior debt obligations involving automobile (10)
16 Basically small computers are light, fit and upgradable (8)
17 State of torrential rains flooding lake at Korea's borders (3,5)
19 No sea waves without cold waters (6)
20 Cherish day I ran partly around city (6)
22 Varaha, for instance carried on air (4)

SUDOKU

5	7	3			6			
6		1		2				
					7			
9				1	4		8	3
4								1
1	2		7	9				4
			2					
				7		1		5
			5			6	4	7

No.SS5957 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	O	R	E	P	L	A	Y		A	T	O	P	I	C
O		A		I		T		C		A		E		O
M	A	G	E	N	T	A		R	O	B	O	T	I	C
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E		N		V		S		R		E		G		I
S	I	G	N	E	T		U	S	U	R	I	O	U	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	9	4	8	7	3	1	6
3	7	1	9	5	6	8	4	2
6	4	8	2	3	1	9	5	7
1	2	5	8	9	4	6	7	3
7	9	4	5	6	3	1	2	8
8	3	6	1	7	2	5	9	4
5	1	7	3	2	8	4	6	9
4	6	3	7	1	9	2	8	5
9	8	2	6	4	5	7	3	1

FAITH

Saraswati puja uplifts all

Saraswati is the Goddess of everything we need to learn in life which is why She is celebrated during Navaratri, Suchitra Balasubramaninan said in a discourse.

It is an occasion to pray, meditate, and seek the blessings of Sarada in Sringeri. When Adi Sankara embarked upon the task of establishing his school of thought across the country, he wanted to engage in a debate with Mandanamisra, who believed none should escape karmic duties. The two scholars debated for many days, with Mandanamisra's wife Sarasavani as the moderator. The two scholars wore garlands with the understanding that the wearer of the garland that faded would lose the debate. Mandanamisra's garland began to fade when Adi Sankara successfully answered a question. Mandanamisra then became Adi Sankara's disciple, and they travelled northwards.

When they reached the banks of the Tungabhadra near Sringagiri, Adi Sankara came across the sight of a snake protecting from the hot rays of the noon sun a pregnant, birthing frog with its hood. Realising the sanctity of the place, where even natural enemies showed mercy to other creatures, Adi Sankara looked at Sarasavani, who was none other than Goddess Saraswati. With a smile, She made Sringeri Her abode. It continues to be a seat of learning.

SEOUL

South Korea, U.S., Japan hold joint air drills involving B-52 bomber

AP

South Korea, the U.S. and Japan carried out their first joint aerial drills on Sunday, Seoul's military said. The exercise, which involved a U.S. nuclear-weapons-capable B-52 bomber, comes as Seoul, Washington and Tokyo beef up their defence cooperation against growing missile and nuclear threats from North Korea. AFP

BUENOS AIRES

Argentina votes in polls under a shadow of economic crisis

AFP

Argentines headed to the polls to vote in a general election under the shadow of the South American country's worst economic crisis in two decades. The three frontrunners in the elections are libertarian economist Javier Milei, centrist Peronist Economy Minister Sergio Massa and conservative Patricia Bullrich. REUTERS

BERN

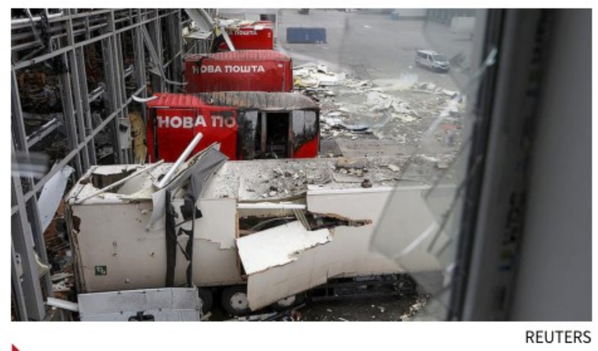
Initial results show populist right leading Swiss elections with 29%

AFP

The right-wing populist Swiss People's Party topped Switzerland's general election on Sunday with 29% of the vote, according to the first results projections for the lower house of Parliament. The party finished well ahead of the left-wing Social Democrats on 17% and the centre-right party The Centre on 15%. AFP

KYIV

Russian strike on Ukraine mail depot kills six, injures 17 others



REUTERS

Russian missile strikes killed at least six postal workers and wounded 17 others on Saturday when they hit a mail depot in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region. Separate Russian attacks on villages near the war-battered Ukrainian city of Bakhmut killed at least two persons on Sunday. AFP

Manila, Beijing trade blame over collisions in disputed sea

Two incidents, involving Chinese vessels, Philippine boats, occurred near Second Thomas Shoal in South China Sea; Beijing routinely deploys ships to assert its claims over almost the entire sea

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

Beijing and Manila traded blame on Sunday for two collisions between Chinese vessels and Philippine boats on a resupply mission to Filipino troops on a remote outpost in the disputed South China Sea.

The incidents happened near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, a hotly contested region where Beijing deploys ships to assert its claims over almost the entire sea.

A Philippine government task force said the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres of China Coast Guard vessel 5203 caused it to collide with the Armed Forces of the Philippines-contracted indigenous resupply boat" about 25 km from Second Thomas Shoal.

China said the "slight collision" happened after the resupply boat ignored "multiple warnings and deliberately passed through law enforcement in an unprofessional and dangerous manner", state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing the Foreign Ministry.

Point of contact: A Chinese militia vessel, top, and a Philippine Coast Guard vessel as they approach the Second Thomas Shoal. AP

Chinese militia vessel

In another incident, a Philippine Coast Guard vessel escorting the routine resupply mission was "bumped" by what the Philippine task force described as a "Chinese Maritime Militia vessel".

China, however, accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately" stirring up trouble by reversing in a "premeditated manner" into a Chinese fishing vessel.

Video released by the Philippine military showed the bow of the Chinese coastguard ship and the stern of the smaller resupply vessel briefly touching.

The Philippine vessel continues on its course.

No one on either Philippine vessel was injured, but the supply boat involved in the collision was damaged, the National Security Council said in a statement, citing the coastguard.

A second resupply boat was able to reach the grounded *BRP Sierra Madre* and "successfully resupply our troops and personnel stationed there", the statement said.

'Irresponsible actions'

"The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea condemns in the strongest degree the latest dangerous, irresponsible, and illegal actions of the CCG and the Chinese Maritime Militia done this morning," the task force said in a statement.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually, and has ignored an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. Second Thomas Shoal is about 200 km from the western Philippine island of Palawan, and more than 1,000 km from China's nearest major landmass, Hainan island.

China said "responsibility lies entirely with the Philippines" for Sunday's incidents.

Two Iran women journalists who covered Amini death get jail terms

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's judiciary on Sunday announced lengthy jail sentences for two women journalists who were arrested after reporting on the death last year of Mahsa Amini, which sparked nationwide protests.

Elaheh Mohammadi, 36, and Niloufar Hamedi, 31, were both found guilty of collaboration with Iran's arch enemy the U.S., the judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

In its ruling, the Revolutionary Court sentenced Ms. Mohammadi to six years in jail, and Ms. Hamedi was handed seven years in prison, said Mizan.

The pair were also each given five-year sentences for conspiring against state security and one for propaganda against the Islamic republic, the website said, adding that the sentences would be served concurrently.

Mahsa Amini's death allegedly at the hand of Iran's morality police triggered protests in the country and across the world. REUTERS

Ms. Mohammadi, a reporter for *Ham Mihan* newspaper, and Ms. Hamedi, a photographer for *Shargh* newspaper, have been held in Tehran's Evin prison since September 2022. Their trials started in May.

Ms. Hamedi was arrested less than a week after Amini's death when she went to the hospital where the young woman was being treated and posted a photo of the grieving family on social media.

Ms. Mohammadi was arrested after going to Amini's hometown of Saqez, in the western Iranian province of Kurdistan, to cover her funeral which turned into a demonstration.

The verdicts against Hamedi and Mohammadi, who were tried separately, are subject to appeal, Mizan said. Their lawyer has yet to react to the rulings.

In August, Iranian media reported that authorities had questioned or arrested more than 90 journalists since the protests triggered by Amini's death in different cities erupted across the country.

Ms. Elaheh's sister, Ms. Elnaz, also a journalist, was arrested and kept in Evin prison for a week in February and given a three-year suspended sentence in September.

Nawaz Sharif moves to restore appeals against convictions

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed applications on his return to Pakistan to restore pending appeals against his convictions in the Avenfield Apartments and Al-Azizia corruption cases.

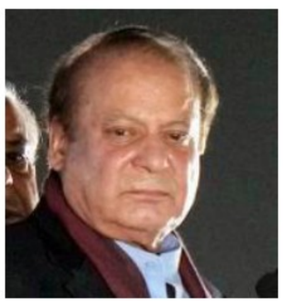
Sharif, 73, the three-time Prime Minister and supremo of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), returned to Pakistan on Saturday after spending four years in self-imposed exile in London.

Sharif signed the applications at Islamabad International Airport on Saturday.

The applications, prepared by his legal team, will be filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Division Bench and are likely to be heard on October 24, a PML-N lawyer told *Dawn* newspaper.

Sharif's legal team will also present a petition seeking protective bail. Besides, Sharif is also supposed to appear before an accountability court on the same day, the report said.

The former Prime Minister was convicted in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases and was declared a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicle case, which is pending before an Islamabad accountability court.



Nawaz Sharif

He was on bail in these cases when he left for the U.K. in 2019 on medical grounds.

VVIP treatment

Meanwhile, jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party has strongly criticised the 'VVIP protocol' given to Sharif upon his return to Pakistan, alleging that all federal and Punjab government resources were used to manage the return of a "convicted absconder".

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan said Sharif was being unjustly and unlawfully facilitated in everything, claiming that the people will however hold the "convicted prisoner" accountable if no one else does, Dawn News reported.

"A convicted prisoner got VVIP protocol and the stateroom opened at Islamabad Airport to receive him," Mr. Ayub Khan said.

Taiwan's Foxconn under tax and land use probe in China

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Foxconn's founder, billionaire Terry Gou, plans to contest in Taiwan's January 2024 elections

Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn is under tax and land use investigations at several of its sites in China, state media reported on Sunday.

Chinese authorities are inspecting Foxconn's sites in southern Guangdong province and Jiangsu in the east, as well as carrying out on-site investigations into the company's land use in central Hunan and Hubei provinces, China's state-run *Global Times* reported.

The newspaper did not specify what authorities are looking into, nor any offences that Foxconn may have committed.

The investigation comes two-and-a-half months before presidential elections in self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as its territory and has vowed to take one day.

Foxconn's founder, billionaire Terry Gou, has cut ties with the firm to focus on his long-shot bid to run as an independent candidate in Taiwan's January 2024 elections.

The 72-year-old failed to become the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party's nominee in 2019.

Critics have alleged that Mr. Gou has a cosy relationship with the Chinese leadership, although Mr. Gou says he can bring peace between Taipei and Beijing.

Government of Telangana
Commissioner of Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase Department
Chanchalguda, Hyderabad, T.S.

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ii) CTP Machine Software
Bid Closing Date: 03.11.2023 @ 03.00 pm on eprocurement portal

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i) Pink Maplitho Paper - 4 varieties
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ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I am a 23-year-old who has recently joined the private sector workforce with a salary of ₹30,000. From this, I have decided to invest ₹6,000 per month.
As I am completely new to the field, I have decided to start a PPF account and am looking to invest in SIP mutual funds. As a fresher in this field, can you guide me on how to diversify my portfolio? I'm looking for long-term investments and don't have any immediate requirements as of now. Can you explain where and how to invest? Any help would be appreciated.
GEORGE SEBASTIAN

A You have made a good start with PPF. You can consider starting with simple index equity funds that have Nifty 50 or Nifty 500 as the underlying index and slowly add Nifty Midcap 150 index fund. Index funds mirror the key benchmark indices in the market and remove the trouble of having to find active funds. They are also low cost and ensure you do not pay a hefty fee to the intermediary. If you plan to invest for the long term (7 years or more), you can consider investing anywhere between 50-70% in such funds and add simple short-duration and corporate-bond funds for the debt component for the 30-50%.
As your savings increase, you can add small component in gold funds and international funds. Work with a goal. Shorter the time frame, lesser the equity to ensure you do not burn your fingers in the market. Do not stop SIPs even when markets fall. Continue with them as they will average prices for you when such falls happen.

Q I am 26 years old working in an IT company. My annual CTC is ₹29,50,000. Can you please help me with effectively planning my salary for meeting my expenses and also for investment, and savings.
How much should I save for my daughter who is 3.5 years old now? How much should I start investing for my retirement?
I have very limited knowledge of finance. It would be helpful if you could guide and help me with a chart on how much percentage or amount I need to spend, save, and invest.
ANAND MATHEW

A You have all the right questions that will help cement your financial journey!
But there are no cookie-cutter solutions. First, you need to assess your monthly cash flow towards expenses, including any loan commitments.

Online calculators
Then, you need to figure (using online calculators) how much you need for retirement and for education, as a rough estimate. You should have a reasonable return assumption (a little more than thedeposit rate in the absence of initial understanding of how markets return) and then see what the calculators throw as your required savings. You will then need to take a relook at expenses if your savings seem inadequate for these goals or work towards steadily increasing such savings. Index equity mutual funds, debt funds and PPF are simple ways to start with.

To get a better grip of personal finance, you can consider reading books such as Let's Talk Money by Monika Halan. Start using calculators that will tell you how much to save (at an assumed rate of return) to reach a specific goal in a certain time.

Investment advisor
If all this is not up your alley, the other option is to go a fee-based investment advisor/financial planner (this means you pay a fee for their services. They do not earn any commission for the product they sell. Do not confuse them with distributors/agents/bank RMs) who will help you assess cash flows, draw a detailed financial plan, and help you choose the right products to invest. Given your high-income status at a young age, this is well within your reach and will avoid a lot of hassle and wrong decisions.

Always remember 'free financial advice' is seldom free of bias. Even if you seek an advisor, be financially aware by learning more.

(The adviser is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Virtual reality: Cyber attacks on SMEs and MSMEs often come in the form of ransomware and cyber extortion. Cyber insurance can help navigate through such risks. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Cyber insurance critical for small, medium enterprises

Small and medium units have become prime targets for cybercriminals, facing a wide array of cyber risks, including data breaches, malware, phishing and denial-of-service attacks

COVERING MSME/SMES

Sajja Praveen Chowdary

India's economic progress today heavily banks on the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that are the backbone of the business ecosystem. And, reasonably so. After all, together, these enterprises contribute more than 28% to the GDP, generating employment and trade opportunities. However, this also means they need a robust shield against any risks, given the high stakes. Especially, in this age of heavy digital reliance, businesses cannot afford to overlook the high financial and legal implications that come bundled with cyber risks.

Nonetheless, amid this economic vibrancy, SMEs and MSMEs are also more susceptible to cyberattacks. A recent report by cybersecurity firm Acronis indicated companies in India have reported more cyberattacks than anywhere else in the world. Government initiatives such as the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill also aim to protect and strengthen data privacy. But one also needs to be prepared with measures to tackle any unfavorable outcomes if such an attack were to actually happen.

This is why cyber insurance is the very first step for organisations towards

> In an era where digital inter-connectivity is the lifeblood of business, SMEs/ MSMEs are realising cybersecurity is not a luxury but a fundamental need

ensuring cybersecurity.

SMEs and MSMEs have become prime targets for cybercriminals. They face a wide range of cyber risks including data breaches, malware attacks, phishing attacks and denial-of-service attacks. They are soft targets because compared with large corporations, they often have fewer resources to invest in cybersecurity. Also, they are less likely to have a team of security experts.

Studies also indicate that about 43% of all cyberattacks are directed at small businesses and startups. The consequences are multi-pronged. They often result in financial losses, damage to reputation, and operational disruptions.

Cyber cover
Only cyber insurance can provide SMEs and MSMEs the protection at a cost that they can afford. It provides a financial safety net, covering the costs associated with data breaches, ransomware attacks, and cyber incidents. For cash-strapped SMEs, this can be the difference between survival and insolvency.

> With a significant portion of SME business often built around trust and relationships, any breach of data integrity can erode customer confidence

Understanding the unique challenges faced by SMEs and MSMEs, insurers now offer specialised cyber insurance solutions tailored to their needs. These policies not only consider scale of operations but also the extent of digital reliance and specific cyber risks they are exposed to.

Cyber attacks on SMEs and MSMEs often come in the form of ransomware and cyber extortion. The perpetrators hack into the systems and block all access unless the victim pays a ransom. Cyber insurance can help navigate through such risks. The policy can cover a wide range of costs, including notification costs, which are the costs of notifying customers and other affected parties about a data breach. These policies also assist with legal expenses arising from a data breach. Cyber insurance often covers the costs associated with restoring lost or compromised data as well.

Operational disruption
Most important, such incidents can lead to operational disruptions. Cyber insurance typically offers coverage for business interruption, compensating for lost income during downtime caused by a cyber event. Many cyber insurance policies also provide access to experts who can guide businesses through the process of managing and mitigating the impact of a cyber incident.

Intangible costs
For SMEs and MSMEs, the aftermath of a cyberattack extends beyond financial losses. The tarnishing of reputation becomes a critical cost. With a significant portion of their business often built on trust and relationships, any breach of data integrity can erode customer confidence.

The loss of trust results in a significant client exodus, impacting revenue and making client acquisition an uphill battle. Additionally, attracting talented professionals becomes challenging as potential employees hesitate to align with a business tainted by a cyber incident. A cyber insurance policy often includes provisions for reputation management, helping businesses navigate the aftermath of a cyberattack and rebuild trust with stakeholders. In an era where digital inter-connectivity is the lifeblood of business operations, SMEs and MSMEs are now realising that cybersecurity is not a luxury but a fundamental business requirement.

(The writer is Head, Policybazaar for Business)

Choosing a life insurer

THINKINVESTOR

You must look for those life insurance companies which have a long and consistent track record of claims' settlement. Always remember, that cheap is not necessarily the best

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Buying a life insurance policy is an important decision for most of us. Here, we discuss a less-addressed factor relating to life insurance – choosing the life insurance company to buy a term insurance policy.

Reputation risk
A life insurance contract is a hedge against mortality risk – the risk of premature death of an income-earning member of a family. It is important the beneficiary of the life insurance policy gets the full sum insured in quick time in the event of a premature demise of the individual (called the insured). To this end, choosing the life insurance company from which you will buy the policy is important.

An important metric to determine the credibility of an insurance company is the claims' settlement ratio. This is the ratio of claims settled by an insurer against total claims filed. True, a high ratio (above 95%) is good. It tells you the insurance company is honouring its commitment. But that may not be enough. You also want to know if the claims are settled in quick time and in full.

The insured pays regular premiums on the policy for many years in the hope the insurance company will honour its commitment after the insured's death. Therefore, you must also consider the financial health of the life insurance company. One indicator is the persistency ratio. This refers to the proportion of policies that are renewed every year. The higher the ratio, better the financial stability of the company, other factors remaining same. The argument is that you must buy a life insurance policy from a company that will outlive you! Note, just because a large proportion of policies are renewed does not mean that customers' experience with the company is good. A life insurance company will have to honour a claim only on the death of the insured. Till then, there is no 'claim experience' for the beneficiary. This is unlike health insurance contracts where individuals having filed a claim this year may decide to renew the policy the next year or switch to another insurance company depending on their claims experience.

Conclusion
The reputation risk of an insurance company is important. You must look for companies that have a long, and consistent track record of claims settlement. Remember that cheap is not necessarily the best.

Therefore, do not buy from an insurance company just because the policy premiums are low.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 76
State Bank of India	11.05-15.05	10,884-11,908	2,177-2,382	NIL (till 31st January 2024)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.80-18.25	10,821-12,765	2,164-2,553	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank^	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.14	11,670	2,334	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
Indusind Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.10	10,307 - 11,148	Up to Rs 500
Canara Bank	8.70 - 11.95	10,307 - 11,110	Nil till 31 December 2023
Bank of India	8.75 - 10.75	10,319 - 10,809	Nil
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.65 - 9.70	10,294 - 10,550	Nil
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.55	10,319 - 10,513	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.95 onwards	10,367 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.27 - 11.70	10,445 - 11,047	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers

Rates and charges as on October 18 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

QUICK GUN

Gill breaks Amla's record, becomes the fastest to 2000 ODI runs

K.R. DEEPAK

Shubman Gill became the fastest batter to reach 2000 ODI runs, achieving the feat in 38 innings during his knock against New Zealand at Dharamshala on Sunday. He eclipsed Hashim Amla's record (40 innings). Incidentally, Gill had made his ODI debut against the Kiwis in Hamilton in 2019.

MAKING HISTORY

Shami becomes first Indian to scalp two five-fors in World Cup

K.R. DEEPAK

Mohammed Shami's five-wicket haul against New Zealand made him the first Indian to scalp two five-fors in the World Cup. He had finished with five for 69 against England at Birmingham in 2019. Kapil Dev, Venkatesh Prasad, Robin Singh, Ashish Nehra and Yuvraj Singh are the other Indians who have taken five-fors in the World Cup.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Fog stops play in Dharamshala during India's chase

K.R DEEPAK

In a rare occurrence, dense fog interrupted the World Cup match between India and New Zealand during the home team's chase on Sunday. India was 100 for two in 15.4 overs when fog descended at the ground, resulting in poor visibility and forcing the umpires to stop the match for a brief period.

UNFORTUNATE

Topley ruled out of World Cup after fracturing finger

EMMANUAL YOGINI

England fast bowler Reece Topley has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup after fracturing his left index finger, the ECB said on Sunday. It added a replacement would be announced in due course but coach Matthew Mott said Jofra Archer, who is among the reserves, would not be included in the squad.

Kohli masterminds India's chase after Shami burst

Mitchell's resourceful century goes in vain for New Zealand as the Men in Blue romp home with four wickets and two overs remaining to record their fifth win in five matches

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
DHARAMSHALA

Like the endearing warmth of the fireplace in a cold Himalayan cottage, India too found its comfort zone up in the hills. Virat Kohli (95, 104b, 8x4, 2x6) played the shepherd guiding his flock, and chasing New Zealand's 273, the Men in Blue coasted home with a four-wicket victory. India finished with 274 for six in 48 overs in a key World Cup game at the HPCA Stadium here on Sunday.

The pursuit shimmered bright in the beginning as skipper Rohit Sharma whipped and lofted Trent Boult, and hoisted and scooped Matt Henry. Shubman Gill, meanwhile, drove with elan, and India moved to 63 for no loss in 10 overs. A false note occurred when Rohit (46) chopped Lockie Ferguson onto his stumps.

Next man Kohli punched Ferguson for four but Gill failed to get past the waiting third-man fielder. The clouds then descended and the cricketers admired nature's tapestry. Despite the mist, Kohli and Shreyas Iyer got some runs but when visibility declined, a short break was imposed.

On resumption, Shreyas succumbed to Boult. Kohli watched K.L. Rahul tuck into Rachin Ravindra's spin. The last-named then felt the heat of Kohli's blade, an inside-out lofted strike flew into the skies and when Henry steamed in, he was drilled away with disdain.

Mitchell Santner prised out Rahul and the worrylines popped up once Suryakumar Yadav got run out. India was delicately placed at 191 for five but Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja ensured that there were no further alarms.

A garland of muscular hits against Boult found Kohli nearly galloping towards his ton before he fell at the last stretch but by then he had left India at the cusp of a special win.

In the afternoon as vehicles crawled up narrow hill roads and boisterous fans disembarked in their blue shade, Rohit won the toss and elected to field.

India stepped in with two changes as Mohammed Shami and Suryakumar replaced Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur.

Devon Conway, watchful against Jasprit Bumrah, flicked Mohammed Siraj to a diving Shreyas.

With Conway dismissed for nought and Shami's first ball in the current World Cup forcing Will Young to drag one onto his stumps, New Zealand needed an alliance.

The situation could have become worse but in a rare episode of Ravindra dropping Ravindra, Jadeja grassed Rachin, when the latter was on 12 while Shami rued his bad luck.

A partnership emerged between Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell with the highlight being their massive sixes off Kuldeep Yadav. The pair survived vociferous appeals and bonded for more than 20 overs.

Mitchell, had his lucky break on 69 with Bumrah dropping him off an aggrieved Kuldeep.

The 159-run third-wicket alliance concluded when Ravindra (75) holed out in the deep off Shami. Kuldeep then trapped New Zealand skipper Tom Latham while Mitchell cruised towards his hundred.

The centurion watched fickle companions leave as Shami clattered stumps. Mitchell (130, 127b, 9x4, 5x6) became Shami's fifth victim (five for 54) as India kept the visitors under 300. It proved within reach as Kohli played the lead star.

On top of their game: Shami's five-wicket haul put paid to the Kiwis' hopes of posting an imposing total while Kohli paced his innings adroitly in a tricky chase. K.R. DEEPAK

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND
Devon Conway c Shreyas b Siraj 0 *(9b)*, Will Young b Shami 17 *(27b, 3x4)*, Rachin Ravindra c Gill b Shami 75 *(87b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Kohli b Shami 130 *(127b, 9x4, 5x6)*, Tom Latham lbw b Kuldeep 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Glenn Phillips c Rohit b Kuldeep 23 *(26b, 1x6)*, Mark Chapman c Kohli b Bumrah 6 *(8b)*, Mitchell Santner b Shami 1 *(2b)*, Matt Henry b Shami 0 *(1b)*, Lockie Ferguson run out 1 *(5b)*, Trent Boult (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-3, lb-5, w-7): 15; Total (in 50 overs): 273.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Conway, 3.3 overs), 2-19 (Young, 8.1), 3-178 (Ravindra, 33.3), 4-205 (Latham, 36.5), 5-243 (Phillips, 44.2), 6-257 (Chapman, 46.6), 7-260 (Santner, 47.4), 8-260 (Henry, 47.5), 9-273 (Mitchell, 49.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 10-1-45-1, Siraj 10-1-45-1, Shami 10-0-54-5, Jadeja 10-0-48-0, Kuldeep 10-0-73-2.

INDIA
Rohit Sharma b Ferguson 46 *(40b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Shubman Gill c Mitchell b Ferguson 26 *(31b, 5x4)*, Virat Kohli c Phillips b Henry 95 *(104b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Conway b Boult 33 *(29b, 6x4)*, K.L. Rahul lbw b Santner 27 *(35b, 3x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav run out 2 *(4b)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 39 *(44b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Mohammed Shami (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 48 overs): 274.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-71 (Rohit, 11.1), 2-76 (Gill, 13.2), 3-128 (Shreyas, 21.3), 4-182 (Rahul, 32.1), 5-191 (Suryakumar, 33.5), 6-269 (Kohli, 47.4).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Boult 10-0-60-1, Henry 9-0-55-1, Santner 10-0-37-1, Ferguson 8-0-63-2, Ravindra 9-0-46-0, Phillips 2-0-12-0.

Toss: India.
PoM: Shami.
India won by four wickets with two overs to spare.

Next assignment

NEW ZEALAND: October 28 vs. **Australia,** *Dharamshala, 10.30 a.m.*

INDIA: October 29 vs. **England,** *Lucknow, 2 p.m.*

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	5	5	0	10	1.353
New Zealand	5	4	1	8	1.481
South Africa	4	3	1	6	2.212
Australia	4	2	2	4	-0.193
Pakistan	4	2	2	4	-0.456
Bangladesh	4	1	3	2	-0.784
Netherlands	4	1	3	2	-0.790
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	2	-1.048
England	4	1	3	2	-1.248
Afghanistan	4	1	3	2	-1.250

All dismissals are my favourites, difficult to pick one: Shami

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
DHARAMSHALA

The seasoned fast bowler was equally quick on the draw while addressing the media.

Fresh from a five for 54 yield against New Zealand, India seamer Mohammed Shami spoke with remarkable candour at the HPCA Stadium here on Sunday night. "I bowled a good line and length and took whatever came my way," he quipped.

Every brick matters

When asked about his favourite dismissal, Shami replied: "All dismissals are my favourites. It is difficult to pick one, it is like making a building, every brick matters and so is the case with every wicket, they all matter a lot."

There was a tricky query about him being benched in the previous games and Shami handled it with grace: "Yes it was a bit difficult to be on the bench but I saw it this way, I am part of a World Cup squad and I was sure I will get a game, if not tomorrow, then may be day after and when that happens I should be ready. More than all that I enjoyed the success of my teammates, there is no space for jealousy here."

Start and finish! Shami's first delivery turned out to be Young's last of the match. K.R. DEEPAK

And about the whispers on the rough outfield, Shami was diplomacy personified: "Listen yaar, the ground is the same for us and New Zealand, I don't want to complain and all, plus this involves groundstaff doing their work. In India the weather can change, there could be moisture, some places it can be dry and it gets difficult. All I would say is that the better the outfield, better it is for the game but yes, no complaints."

When a surprise guest – Mohammed Siraj – stepped in, Shami acknowledged the camaraderie within the fast-bowling club.

"We work out plans and are happy when each of us do well. Siraj here has done well and he keeps egging you on, plus we also get to win medals in the dressing room, it is all good fun."

'The way India bowled was pretty special'

Lalith Kalidas
DHARAMSHALA

New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell lauded India's death-bowling masterclass in its four-wicket win at the HPCA Stadium on Sunday.

"I think we set the platform at the 35-over mark. I think it was very similar to what India was at that stage and we knew that India had a world-class death-bowling unit. For us, it was trying to cash in at the end," said Mitchell who scored his fourth ODI century this year.

Shami (five for 54) was adjudged Player-of-the-Match after combining with pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj to give away just 144 in 30 overs.

"The way India bowled was pretty special. Shami got the rewards, but also Bumrah. The way the two, and Siraj, took wickets and those 30 overs held us back a bit," said Mitchell.

Rohit the first Indian to hit 50 sixes in ODIs in a year

Lalith Kalidas
DHARAMSHALA

Skipper Rohit Sharma became the first Indian batter to smash 50 sixes in a calendar year in One-Day Internationals.

Virat Kohli is the first player to hit 3,000 runs in ICC white-ball tournaments (50-over World Cup, T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy).

Kohli recorded his 67th fifty-plus score in run-chases in his 152nd innings. Only Sachin Tendulkar has more such scores in ODIs – 69 in 232 innings.

Mitchell's hundred is just the second by a New Zealand batter against India at the World Cup after 49 years. The first was struck by Glenn Turner in the inaugural World Cup in 1975 at Old Trafford.

Mitchell also tied the Kiwi record for most ODI hundreds in a single calendar year with his fourth ton in 2023.

Prolific: Mitchell tied the Kiwi record for most ODI hundreds in a calendar year. K.R. DEEPAK

Shami, in 95 matches, equalled Srinath (229 matches) and Harbhajan Singh (234) for the most ODI five-fors among Indians.

India equalled New Zealand (2015) for the most wins – five – in consecutive World Cup matches while chasing.

India fielded Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami for the first time in an ODI on Sunday against New Zealand. Incidentally, the trio also rank among the top-three Indian bowlers ever in terms of averages (min. 50 wickets).

Spin test from Afghanistan trio awaits unstable Pakistan line-up

That the pace attack at Babar's disposal has tended to drift whenever Afridi failed to nail early wickets will be a cause for concern for the team; Shahidi's men will have to improve their catching a lot if they want to make a match out of it

ODI WORLD CUP

Ayan Acharya
CHENNAI

Time running out: Babar and Co. will have to regroup quickly as they approach the must-win territory. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

While the on-field rivalry between Pakistan and Afghanistan is still in its infancy, crowd disturbances, edge-of-the-seat finishes, and scuffles between players have already lent it the kind of rhetoric that perhaps better describes events in a bullring than in a cricket stadium. The ICC 2023 World Cup match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday is a good chance to see if the on-field action has retained a similar needle.

Afghanistan's spin trio of Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Mohammad Nabi can pose a challenge to Pakistan's unstable middle order if it find its rhythm.

Big influence

The way skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi deploys Rashid will also influence the result. In a match against India, Rashid came in when India was 125-0 in 14 overs, which seemed an odd decision.

However, against England, he entered the game when the Three Lions were 82 for three off 16 overs, precisely where he excels.

Rashid's pace is quick for a spinner, and on a slightly two-paced Chepauk surface, he will target the stumps and look for lbws. While the Pakistani top-order batters have an affinity for the sweep, they should consider hitting down the ground against Rashid.

This match will be played on the same pitch that was used for India's match against Australia.

Downturn

Against New Zealand, Afghanistan's innings took a downturn when the middle order came in – the last seven wickets fell for just 42 runs. Afghanistan needs to shore up its sometimes rash, often lax middle-order.

Afghanistan's coach, Jonathan Trott, had also expressed concerns about fielding as his team missed six chances in its loss to New Zealand. Unless it improves in this aspect, Pakistan could capitalise on its mistakes. Meanwhile, there are headaches aplenty for Pakistan. Its pace attack tends to drift if Shaheen Afridi does not get early wickets. Babar Azam's form and continuing struggles with spin don't allay concerns either.

In this scenario, it will be intriguing to see whether the team with superior skills or the one with a better control of emotions wins.

▼ Rashid's pace is quick for a spinner, and on a slightly two-paced Chepauk surface, he will target the stumps and look for lbws

▼ The Pakistan-Afghanistan game will be played on the same pitch that was used for India's match against Australia

Today's match

Pakistan vs. Afghanistan

Chennai, **2 p.m.**

H2H IN ODIs

Played **7**

Pakistan	Afghanistan
7	0

EYE ON THE SKY

High: **34**°C
Low: **26**°C
Thunderstorm with rain

SOURCE: IMD

Dina Taljaard — fulfilling dreams through her son's World Cup exploits

Pleased as punch: Dina, right, mother of Engelbrecht, with daughter and grandsons. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LUCKNOW

Dina Taljaard was denied an opportunity to compete at the Olympics in 1968 and then the World gymnastics championship, for no fault of hers. Her country, South Africa, was banned from sport because of the apartheid policy.

So when her son got a chance to play at the cricket World Cup, she flew down from Johannesburg to India, taking along with her daughter and grandchildren. She is glad she did: she could watch her son, Sybrand Engelbrecht, scoring a superb 70 lower down the order against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

She was also there at Dharamshala when the Netherlands scored a historic win, against South Africa.

"I decided to come to India when Sybrand was selected in the Netherlands team," Dina, dressed expectedly in orange, told *The Hindu* at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium. "It has been a great experience and exciting to watch him play at the World Cup."

Engelbrecht had played for South Africa in the Under-19 World Cup in 2008 in Malaysia, where he took a couple of incredible catches, one of which was off the bat from a certain Virat Kohli, but retired from cricket eight years later. Then he moved into a career in finance and did an MBA. His job took him to Holland and he returned to cricket.

Elated

Dina is delighted that he is doing what she could not in international sport. "It was heart-breaking to miss out on the Olympics and the World championship," she said.

"We had already been in the UK and France and competing and then we were stopped. But when you are young, you really don't know the full implications. Like me, many South African athletes, from various sports, were denied opportunities to take part in the Olympics and other prestigious international events."

Among them were some cricketing greats, like Barry Richards, Graeme Pollock and Mike Procter.

"A whole generation suffered," said Dina. "But you cannot change that. I am really happy that Sybrand has got to play in a World Cup, and my grandsons, both keenly into cricket, have loved watching their uncles perform."

Neighbours' rivalry lends an element of intrigue to the contest

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Team game: Trott was insistent that not just the spinners, but the other members, too, have to pull their weight. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

One of the charms of international sports is the rivalries between countries for various reasons ranging from political to regional or shared borders and even style of play. Cricket is no exception as the latest one in the sport that is gaining traction is the clash between neighbours Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It is something that, Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott said, gets his players excited ahead of their clash against Babar Azam's men on Monday.

"I think for them it's a rivalry that excites them. We have seen Asia Cup clashes and matches that have been very exciting. No closer than the T20 Asia Cup last year, where it went down with Pakistan (winning) by one wicket," said Trott. "So, we have had very close games as well. Hopefully, tomorrow isn't very exciting, and we win by a lot. But I am sure we will see an exciting game tomorrow. It's just the nature of the rivalry, I should say.

"And I think both teams respect each other but are desperate to win," added the former England batter.

With Monday's match set to be played on the same strip used for the India and Australia encounter, spinners could well hold the key, which should play to the strength of the Afghans.

However, Trott said the rest of the team, too, have to pull their weight. "The thing is – with spinners, only two or three are playing a game. And it's the other eight as well that have to play the game, so that's important. It's everybody's job and not just the spinners' job to win games," he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq was unfazed by the Afghan spin and recalled that the team recently beat Afghanistan in similar spin-friendly conditions in a bilateral series in Sri Lanka.

"Of course, there are good spinners in Afghanistan who can bowl well in the middle overs. But we had beaten them in Hambantota 3-0.

"Even there, the conditions were very spin-friendly. So, we will back that and our ability. In the end, you have to play the ball, not the bowler," said Imam.

Aston Villa thrashes West Ham to close in on Premier League top four

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BIRMINGHAM

Hat-trick hero: Griezmann scores the first of his three against Celta. REUTERS

Aston Villa climbed to within two points of the Premier League lead as Douglas Luiz struck twice in a 4-1 win over West Ham on Sunday.

Ollie Watkins and Leon Bailey were also on target as Unai Emery's men recorded an 11th consecutive home Premier League win.

On Saturday, Manchester United's players paid an emotional tribute to the departed club great and England World Cup winner Bobby Charlton before beating Sheffield United 2-1.

The win lifts Manchester United to eighth in the table but Sheffield United is in deep trouble, four points from safety.

Girona reclaimed second place in LaLiga with a thumping 5-2 win over bottom-of-the-table Almeria on Sunday.

The Catalan side came from two goals down to record a big triumph at its Montilivi stadium, continuing its superb season, and levelling leader Real Madrid on 25 points after 10 games.

On Saturday, Antoine Griezmann struck a hat-trick in Atletico Madrid's 3-0 win over 10-man Celta Vigo.

The French forward was at his lethal best in a comfortable win at Celta's Balaidos stadium for Diego Simeone's side, made easier by the hosts' goalkeeper Ivan Villar's early dismissal.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Luiz 30, 51-pen, Watkins 74, Bailey 89) West Ham 1 (Bowen 56)
LaLiga: Las Palmas 0 lost to Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bebe 90+1-pen); Girona 5 (Martin 37, Dovbyk 39, 43, Savinho 71, Stuani 85) bt Almeria 2 (Baptistao 2, 24).
Serie A: Roma 1 (El Shaarawy 90) bt Monza 0; Atalanta 2 (Lookman 68, Ederson 90+5) bt Genoa 0; Bologna 2 (Ferguson 19, De Silvestri 22) bt Frosinone 1 (Soule 63).

On Saturday: Premier League: Sheffield United 1 (McBurnie 34) lost to Manchester United 2 (McTominay 28, Dalot 77).
LaLiga: Celta Vigo 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 3 (Griezmann 29-pen, 64, 70).
Bundesliga: Mainz 1 (Caci 43) lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Coman 11, Kane 16, Goretzka 59).

Krauter cruises to five-shot win; Diksha third

Rakesh Rao
GURUGRAM

Diksha Dagar finished a creditable third before Aline Krauter added another chapter to the tale of a 'rookie' winning the $400,000 Hero Women's Indian Open golf title at the DLF Golf and Country Club here.

Commencing the final round with a two-shot lead on Sunday, the 23-year-old German shot a third successive round of four-under 68 for a winning tally 15-under 273 that gave her a five-stroke triumph over Sweden's Sara Kjellker.

During the round where Krauter never trailed, her lead shrunk to one after a bogey on the fourth hole and rose to a high of seven shots between 14 and 16 holes.

The eventual five-hole margin came about after Kjellker birdied the 17th hole and Krauter three-putted for a bogey on the final hole.

Krauter's maiden title on the Ladies European Tour earned her $60,000 and a two-year exemption from qualifying for the Tour events. Kjellker collected $36,000.

Diksha fired five birdies against a lone bogey to take the turn at a 33.

However, on the back nine, Diksha could only manage a birdie and two bogeys for a 37.

On top: Krauter after winning the $400,000 Hero Women's Indian Open golf title. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With Krauter looking increasingly steady in the leaders' group, Diksha stayed in the tied second spot for sometime before falling back following her bogey on the 14th hole.

The scores: with prize-money (Indians unless stated): 273 – Aline Krauter (Ger) (69, 68, 68, 68, $60,000); 278 – Sara Kjellker (Swe) (73, 66, 68, 71, $36,000); 280 - Diksha Dagar (67, 72, 71, 70, $24,000); 281 – Hannah Burke (Eng) (90, 70, 72, 69, $14,400); 282 – Sara Kouskova (Cze) (72, 72, 73, 65, $12,400), Avani Prashanth (A) (71, 70, 72, 69); 283 – Gabriella Cowley (Eng) (72, 74, 67, 70, $11,200); 286 — Noora Komulainen (Fin) (77, 71. 69, 69, $9,800), Gaurika Bishnoi (72, 69, 74, 71, $9,800); 287 – Anne-Charlotte Mora (Fra) (73, 72, 68, 74, $9,200).

Other Indians: 290 – Amandeep Drall (76, 74, 71, 69), Vani Kapoor (68, 70, 74, 78); 291 - Nishtha Madan (79, 70, 68, 74); 292 - Ridhima Dilawari (74, 71, 73, 74); 293 – Khushi Khanijau (73, 73, 74, 73); 295 – Neha Tripathi (75, 72, 75, 73), Vidhatri Urs (A) (70, 74, 73, 78).

INBRIEF

Australian MotoGP sprint race cancelled due to extreme rain

The Australian MotoGP sprint race was called off at Phillip Island on Sunday, with wet and windy conditions considered too treacherous for the riders. Organisers pulled the pin barely half-an-hour before the 13-lap dash was due to start, with wind gusts of up to 80km per hour forecast.

Verstappen claims sprint race; Hamilton follows in second

Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen won a U.S. Grand Prix sprint race from pole on Saturday with Lewis Hamilton second for Mercedes. The 26-year-old finished 9.465 seconds ahead of Hamilton in the 19-lap stand-alone race at Austin's Circuit of the Americas. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc took third after being passed by Hamilton at the start of a race that paid points to the top eight finishers. In the early laps, Verstappen and Hamilton ran close enough for the Briton to have DRS (drag reduction) but then the Red Bull pulled away. McLaren's Lando Norris finished fourth with Red Bull's Sergio Perez fifth.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

AFC Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Tuesday

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

AFC Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 & 9.30 p.m.

Rajiv Sethu wins Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category

Vignesh Goud of Race'ists Motorcycle Club (Novice-Stock 165cc) and Lani Zena Fernandez of RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate (Girls-Stock 165cc) also clinch the national titles

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Though he was denied a ninth-straight win, the 25-year-old Rajiv Sethu won the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category in the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) here on Sunday.

Also clinching the National titles were Vignesh Goud of Race'ists Motorcycle Club (Novice-Stock 165cc) and Lani Zena Fernandez of RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate (Girls-Stock 165cc).

On top: Rajiv Sethu after his title triumph. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Provisional results (all 8 laps unless mentioned): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: Race-2: 1. Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) 14:59.041s; 2. Rahil Pillarisetty (KTM Gusto Racing) 14:59.566; 3. Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) 14:59.656.

Pro-Stock 165cc Open: Race-2 (5 laps): 1. Rajiv 9:55.075; 2. Sarthak 9:56.286; 3. Chiranth Vishwanath (Petronas TVS Racing) 9:57.533; **Rider champion:** Not declared pending enquiry; **Team champion:** Not declared pending enquiry.

Novice (Stock 165cc): Race-2 (6 laps): 1. Savion Sabu (Axor Sparks Racing) 12:56.237; 2. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (AS Motorsports) 12:56.400; 3. Aadit Shah (Axor Sparks Racing) 12:56.667.

Girls (Stock 165cc, 3 laps): 1. Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) 6:40.083; 2. Nadine Faith Balaji (Alpha Racing) 6:54.558; 3. Adlin Seles (Alpha Racing) 7:00.642.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup: NSF 250R Open: Race-2: 1. Kavin Quintal 15:09.312; 2. Johann Reeves Emmanuel 15:14.912; 3. P. Mohsin 15:14.974.

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Open (301-400cc, RR 310): Race-2 (6 laps): 1. Chiranth 11:39.641; 2. Romario John 11:40.117; 3. G. Balaji 11:40.157.

Media (Apache RTR): Race-1 (5 laps): 1. Joel Kolathoor Raju 11:19.208; 2. Alshin K. Thomas 11:19.312; 3. Ananya Awasthi 11:19.646.

Race-2 (5 laps): 1. Alshin 11:15.520; 2. Joel 11:15.642; 3. Punya Prasun Sharma 11:21.399.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kodagu blanks MFAR

Kodagu FC defeated MFAR Students Union FC 2-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Sunday.

The results: Kodagu FC 2 (Heiwanbha 66, Shlok Tiwari 73) bt Deccan 0; South United FC 0 drew with MFAR Students Union FC 0.

Gameon Hockey Club post big win

Gameon Hockey Club blanked Samant Sports Academy 15-0 in the KSHA-BHA C-division hockey league on Sunday.

In another match, Bijapur HC defeated BCYA-C 6-1.

Big win for Yataghan FC

Yataghan FC thrashed Indian Football Factory 5-0 in The Amateur League football season 12 conference-A here on Sunday.

Other results: Gremio FC drew with Titans FC 0-0; Samurai BFC bt Alchemy IFA 4-1; Yataghan FC bt Raptors FC 5-0; Titans FC drew with Alchemy IFA 0-0; Rebels Development bt Gremio FC 1-0; Roots FC bt BBFS 3-0; Samurai BFC bt Indian Football Factory 4-0.

Changmai clinches Asian junior U-15 gold

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shuttler Bornil Aakash Changmai on Sunday won a gold medal in the under-15 boys' singles category at the Badminton Asia under-17 and under-15 junior championships in Chengdu, defeating Fan Hong Xuan 21-19, 21-13. In the girls' U17 final, Tanvi Sharma went down fighting to Thailand's Yataweemin Ketklieng 17-21, 21-11, 19-21.

KARNATAKA ROUND UP

Karnataka hammers Meghalaya

Karnataka whipped Meghalaya by 10 wickets in the BCCI senior women's twenty20 trophy at Vadodara.

The scores: Meghalaya 41 in 12.2 overs (Pushpa Kiresur 3/18) lost to Karnataka 43 for no loss in 7.3 overs (Divya Gnanananda 27 n.o.).

Team badminton gold for Karnataka men

Karnataka won the men's team badminton gold at the 47th National Games in Goa with a 3-1 defeat of Maharashtra in the final.

Champs: The triumphant Karnataka men's badminton team.

The result: Karnataka bt Maharashtra 3-1 (S. Bhargav bt Harsheel Dani 18-21, 21-19, 21-15; K. Pruthvi Roy lost to Rohan Gurbani 21-23, 24-22, 14-21; H.V. Nithin & K. Sai Pratheek bt Deep Rambhiya & Akshan Shetty 21-12, 21-14; Ayush Shetty bt Darshan Pujari 21-16, 21-17).

Mumbai scrapes past Karnataka

Mumbai edged out Karnataka by one wicket in the round-of-16 of the BCCI under-19 women's one day trophy at Vizianagaram.

The scores: Karnataka 172/7 in 50 overs (Lavanya Chalana 55, Bhavika Reddy 29, Mithila Vinod 34) lost to Mumbai 173/9 in 48 overs (Sanika Chalke 29, Saloni Kushte 35, Zeal D'Mello 25 n.o., Mithila Vinod 4/33).

Hardik is Karnataka's star

Hardik Raj (5/18) powered Karnataka past Himachal Pradesh in the BCCI under-19 Vinoo Mankad Trophy men's trophy at Hyderabad.

The scores: Himachal Pradesh 111 in 32.3 overs (Akshay Vashisht 47, Hardik Raj 5/18) lost to Karnataka 114/3 in 19.2 overs (S.U. Karthik 44, Harshil Dharmani 29).

Dyf claims Golconda St. Leger

HYDERABAD: Trainer Adhirajsingh Jodha's Dyf ridden by P. Trevor won the Golconda St. Leger, the main attraction of Sunday's (Oct. 22) races here.

The winner is owned by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy and Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Jiyaji Bhosale, Rishikesh Bhosale and Rama Seshu Eyunni.

Dyf, who was racing last in this three horse contest till the final turn, was given a reminder by his pilot Trevor to tackle the front-runner Monteverdi in the straight and later this son of Cougar Mountain – Soak sailed into the lead to register victory by a good margin.

1. PEDDAPALLI PLATE (DIV. II): PINATUBO (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Capriati (Akshay Kumar) 2, Fatuma (Tograllu) 3 and Warwick (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/2 and 1. 1m 14. 13s. ₹25 (w), 11, 11 and 15 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 42, SHW: 15 and 10, FP: 44, Q: 18, Tanala: 168. Favourite: Capriati.

Owner: Mr. G.K. Keshavamurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

2. PEDDAPALLI PLATE (DIV. I): ROCHELLE (Santosh Raj N.R.) 1, First Class (Akshay Kumar) 2, Classy Dame (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Soorya Vahan (Md. Ismail) 4. 2-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 14. 70s. ₹46 (w), 19, 12 and 19 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 55, SHW: 25 and 14, FP: 132, Q: 56, Tanala: 446. Favourite: First Class.

Winning team: Owners Rama Seshu Eyunni, left, Rishikesh Bhosale, right, trainer Adhiraj Singh Jodha, second right, and Jockey P. Trevor, who rode DYF to victory in the HRC The Golconda St. Leger (Grade II). G. RAMAKRISHNA

Owner & Trainer: Mr. K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

3. HYDERABAD CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CUP (DIV. II): HIGH REWARD (R.S. Jodha) 1, Wind Sprite (Afroz Khan) 2, Power Ranger (Surya Prakash) 3 and See My Spark (Shivansh) 4. 5-3/4, Neck and Head. 1m 13. 36s. ₹98 (w), 23, 20 and 38 (p). SHP: 69, THP: 98, SHW: 20 and 33, FP: 944, Q: 473, Tanala: 14, 349. Favourite: Life's Living.

Owner: Mr. Murugappan Alagappa. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

4. GOLCONDA ST. LEGER (GR. II): DYF (Cougar Mountain-Soak) (P. Trevor) 1, Monteverdi (Roderic O' Connor-Arabelle) (Suraj Narredu) 2 and Karanveer (Vivek G) 3. 7-3/4 and 22. 3m 00.57s. ₹11 (w), SHP: 14. FP: 14. Favourite: Dyf.

Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy and Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Jiyaji Bhosale, Rishikesh Bhosale and Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: Adhirajsingh Jodha.

5. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP: SHADOW OF THE MOON (S. Saqlain) 1, Lucky Zone (P. Trevor) 2, Rival (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Exclusive Spark (Santosh Raj) 4. 5-3/4, 1-1/4 and 4-1/2. 1m 39. 50s. ₹19 (w), 11, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 38, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 62, Q: 37, Tanala: 78. Favourite: Shadow Of The Moon.

Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

6. HYDERABAD CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CUP (DIV. I): STOIC HERO (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Star Medal (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Malibu (Santosh Raj) 3 and Bangor On Dee (A. Imran Khan) 4. Head, 6-1/4 and 1. 1m 13. 95s. ₹75 (w), 20, 21 and 41 (p). SHP: 71, THP: 126, SHW: 31 and 31, FP: 752, Q: 400, Tanala: 8,186. Favourite: Stag's Leap.

Owner: Mr. K. Mallikarjuna Rao. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

7. HARD HELD PLATE: CREATIVE FORCE (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Sucker Punch (Vivek G) 2, Delhi Heights (Abhay Singh) 3 and Starwalt (Mohit Singh) 4. 2, 2-3/4 and 7-1/4. 1m 27. 77s. ₹29 (w), 14, 27 and 26 (p). SHP: THP: 108, SHW: 17 and 31, FP: 197, Q: 156, Tanala: 2,650. Favourite: Creative Force.

Owners: Mr. G.K. Keshavamurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹50,861 (7 tkts.), 30%: 8,476 (18 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 7,325 (8 tkts.), (ii) 1,265 (126 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 416 (77 tkts.), (ii) 1,275 (62 tkts.).

Livermore should score in feature

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old filly Livermore should score over her rivals in the Smt. Teegala Sulochana Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Oct. 23) races.

1 HALLMARK PLATE (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) – 1.30 p.m.: 1. Forever Bond (2) P. Trevor 60, 2. Muaser (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. My Way Or Highway (1) Mohit Singh 60, 4. Canterbury (7) Md. Ekram Alam 58.5, 5. Dream Jewel (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. I Am Superman (6) Vivek G 54.5 and 7. Ar Superior (4) Santosh Raj 51.

1. FOREVER BOND, 2. DREAM JEWEL, 3. CANTERBURY

2 SIRICILLA PLATE (Div. I) (1,400m), Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.05: 1. Encore (9) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Sacred Bond (8) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 3. Young Diana (4) Ajay Kumar 57.5, 4. Federer (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55, 5. Code Blue (5) Abhay Singh 54.5, 6. Pair Of Wings (1) Mohit Singh 54.5, 7. Tortilla Chip (3) Md. Ismail 54.5, 8. Crown Witness (2) Santosh Raj 53.5 and 9. Ampere's Touch (6) Surya Prakash 53.

1. YOUNG DIANA, 2. SACRED BOND, 3. ENCORE

3 SIRICILLA PLATE (Div. II) (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.40: 1. Queen Empress (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Windsor (6) Md. Ekram Alam 58.5, 3. Trishul (3) P. Trevor 57.5, 4. Flashing Memories (5) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. N R I Fairy (2) Vivek G 55.5, 6. Soorya (---), 7. Deccan Daisy (7) Santosh Raj 55 and 8. No Rule (1) Afroz Khan 54.5.

1. TRISHUL, 2. WINDSOR, 3. QUEEN EMPRESS

4 MANDATE PLATE (2,000m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.15: 1. Stunning Art (2) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Sundance Kid (7) S. Saqlain 60, 3. Ashwa Gajraj (9) Vivek G 59.5, 4. Hoping Sky (4) Mohit Singh 59.5, 5. Life Is Good (3) Md. Ismail 59, 6. Carnival Lady (1) Shivansh 57.5, 7. Original Sin (5) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 8. Das (8) Afroz Khan 56.5 and 9. Magic Princess (6) Abhay Singh 52.

1. ORIGINAL SIN, 2. ASHWA GAJRAJ, 3. DAS

5 S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), rated 40 to 6 (Cat. II) – 3.50: 1. Just Incredible (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 60, 2. True Icon (3) A. Imran Khan 59.5, 3. Path Of Peace (4) Surya Prakash 56, 4. Detective (7) Akshay Kumar 55, 5. Ivanhoe (6) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 55, 6. Grand Duke (2) Md. Ekram Alam 54.5 and 7. Divine Destiny (1) P. Trevor 53.

1. DETECTIVE, 2. DIVINE DESTINY, 3. TRUE ICON

6 SMT. TEEGALA SULOCHANA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 4.25: 1. Ashwa Morocco (1) Ajay Kumar 60, 2. Top Secret (11) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59, 3. Beauty Blaze (10) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 58.5, 4. Tiger Mountain (7) A. Imran Khan 58, 5. Siddharth (5) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 6. Shazam (12) Mohit Singh 55, 7. Livermore (2) S. Saqlain 53.5, 8. Morior Invictus (9) Surya Prakash 53, 9. Stunning Force (8) Md. Ismail 52.5, 10. High Command (14) P. Trevor 52, 11. Nightmare (4) Shivansh 52, 12. Maximum Glamour (6) Afroz Khan 51.5, 13. Miss Little Angel (13) Abhay Singh 51.5 and 14. N R I Doublepower (3) Vivek G 51.5.

1. LIVERMORE, 2. SIDDHARTH, 3. ASHWA MOROCCO

7 NIJINKSY PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 5.00: 1. Pal Cha (---), 2. Burgundy Black (4) Abhay Singh 59, 3. Divine Connection (3) Md. Ekram Alam 59, 4. Saint Emilion (7) Shivansh 58, 5. D Mincu (9) Deepak Singh 57.5, 6. Ambitious Star (6) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 7. Challenger (---), 8. Precious Gift (5) Ajay Kumar 54.5, 9. Star Cruise (2) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 54.5, 10. Silver Lining (1) S. Saqlain 53.5 and 11. Special Effort (8) Santosh Raj 51.

1. SAINT EMILION, 2. SILVER LINING, 3. DIVINE CONNECTION

Day's Best: **LIVERMORE**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 matches today

Sports Bureau

The following matches will be held in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 trophy matches on Monday (October 23).

Group-A (At Jaipur): Baroda vs. Hyderabad; Haryana vs. Mizoram; Chhattisgarh vs. Mumbai; Jammu & Kashmir vs. Meghalaya (D/N).

Group-B (At Mumbai): Assam vs. Chandigarh; Kerala vs. Sikkim; Himachal Pradesh vs. Services; Bihar vs. Odisha (D/N).

Group-C (At Ranchi): Goa vs. Railways; Arunachal Pradesh vs. Saurashtra; Gujarat vs. Punjab; Andhra vs. Manipur (D/N).

Group-D (At Mohali): Puducherry vs. Vidarbha; Jharkhand vs. Maharashtra; Bengal vs. Uttarakhand (D/N).

Group-E (At Dehradun): Karnataka vs. Nagaland; Tripura vs. Uttar Pradesh; Delhi vs. Tamil Nadu (D/N).

Unnati wins title, Ashwini-Tanisha duo also triumphs

ABU DHABI MASTERS

ANI
ABU DHABI

Unnati Hooda outdid Samiya Imad Farooqui to capture the women's singles title at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023 here on Sunday. Unnati, 16, defeated Samiya 21-16, 22-20.

Unnati won her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title. She became the youngest Indian to win a BWF title last year at 14, beating 21-year-old Smit Toshniwal in the final. Meanwhile, Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto won their first BWF title as a pair in the women's doubles final, defeating Denmark's Julie Finne-Ipsen and Mai Surrow 21-16, 16-21, 21-8. In men's singles, Kiran George and Raghu Mariswamy both lost their semifinals. The Indian men's and mixed doubles teams did not get beyond the quarterfinals.

Animesh betters own 200m record

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Animesh Kujur broke his own 200m meet record, clocking 20.87s, at the third National Open U-23 athletics championships in Chandigarh on Sunday. Tamil Arasu (10.54s) and Mariya Nivetha (11.79s) won the men's and women's 100m on Saturday.

The results (winners only):

Men: 200m: Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.87s MR, OR own 21.12. **1500m:** Shivam Sharma (HP) 3:43.85s. **5000m:** Shadab Pathan (Mah) 14:06.10s MR, OR 14:13.92. **400m hurdles:** Keshav Tanwar (Del) 51.79s. **Long jump:** Asadullah Mujahith (TN) 7.67m. **High jump:** Md Ashraf Ali (WB) 2.15m MR, OR 2.13. **Javelin throw:** Yashvir Singh (Raj) 78.12m MR, OR 76.79. **Hammer throw:** Nitesh Poonia (Raj) 64.38m.

Women: 200m: Chelimi (A) 24.15s. **1500m:** Nikita Sharma (HP) 4:27.50s. **5000m:** Neha Panwar (UP) 16:50.03s. **400M hurdles:** Ramandeep Kaur (Pun) 1:00.90s. **Long jump:** Kusuma Ravada (AP) 6.09m. **Javelin throw:** Jyoti (Har) 52.77m MR, OR 51.07. **Heptathlon:** Sonu Kumari (Har) 5008 pts MR, OR 4910.

Vinodh knocks out Sanil Shankar

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Qualifier G. Vinodh (RSPB) knocked out sixth-seeded Sanil Shankar Shetty (PSPB) to cause the only upset in the UTT National-ranking table tennis on Sunday.

The results (second round): Harmeet Desai (PSPB) bt Arjun Ghosh (RSPB) 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-5; G. Vinodh (RSPB) bt Sanil Shankar Shetty (PSPB) 11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9; Manav Thakkar (PSPB) bt P. Ekambaram (RSPB) 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-5; A. Sharath Kamal bt Akash Gupta 11-7, 14-12, 12-10; Soham Bhattacharya (Guj) bt Prinanuj Bhattacharyya 4-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-3; Abhishek Yadav (UP) bt Riyan Dutta (Guj) 12-10, 11-3, 10-12, 13-11.

J. Aakash (Kar) bt Rahul Mallik (Pun) 6-11, 7-11, 11-5, 12-10, 12-10; Anthony Amalraj (PSPB) bt Shankar Baruah (Asm) 11-9, 11-7, 11-13, 11-8; Mohammed Ali (TS) bt Emon Adhikary (NOCE) 8-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-6, 12-10; Sreedhar Joshi (UP) bt Vansh Singhal (TS) 11-13, 11-4, 11-7, 9-11, 12-10; R. Albuquerque (Mah) bt Naman Bhatnagar (HP) 11-5, 4-11, 11-5, 13-11; Fidel Rafeequee (AAI) bt Mundit Dani (Mah) 9-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-7.

Ramkumar emerges the champion

Well done: Ramkumar receives the trophy from the dignitaries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

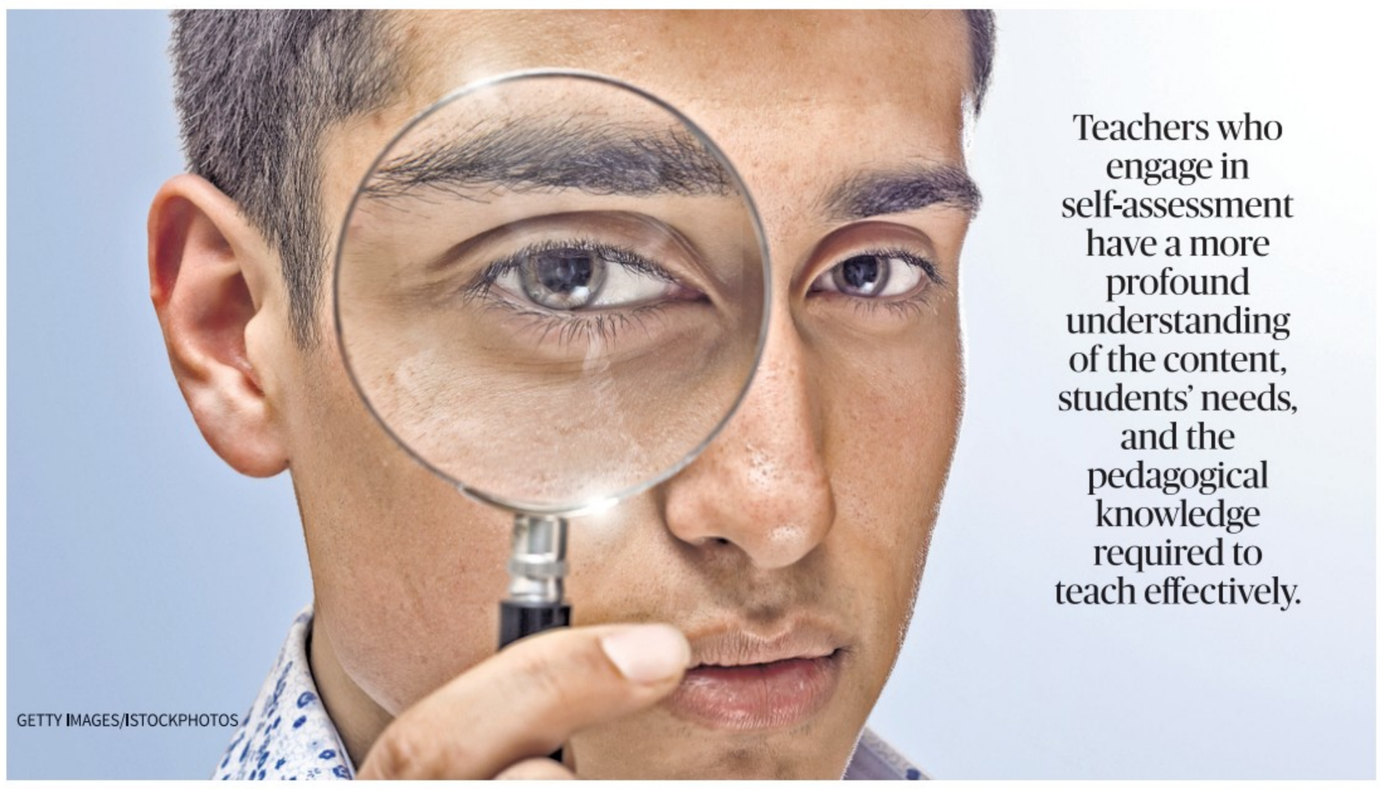
Sports Bureau

Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated Digvijay Pratap Singh 7-6(5), 7-6(6) to emerge the champion of the $25,000 ITF Dharwad Men's World Tennis Tour event in Dharwad on Sunday. The winner took home a cheque for $3600 and 20 ATP points while Digvijay pocketed $2120 and 12 ATP points.

To be an effective teacher

Rishabh Khanna

At a time when the Internet empowers students with instant knowledge access, teachers need to renew their approaches consistently to remain relevant. How do they do that? The answer lies in self-assessment. As 21st-century learning becomes more dynamic, teachers must not only evaluate their students but also take a magnifying glass to their own practices. As a result, self-assessment for teachers has transitioned from being an option to a necessity.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTOS

Teachers who engage in self-assessment have a more profound understanding of the content, students' needs, and the pedagogical knowledge required to teach effectively.

Scope for growth

When teachers assess their skills and teaching methods, they are better poised to address their strengths and pinpoint areas for growth. Teachers who engage in self-assessment have a more profound understanding of the content, students' needs, and the pedagogical knowledge required to teach effectively. Such teachers also are more adept at adapting to the diverse needs of students and better equipped to identify the right channels to advance their teaching careers.

While the importance of self-assessment is recognised, teachers often find it challenging due to lack of time and clear guidelines, or a limited understanding of the process. Here are some practical ways teachers can integrate self-assessment into their routines:

Olympiads for teachers: These events allow teachers to test and showcase their pedagogical skills and teaching methods in a competitive, yet supportive, environment. Much like events for students, these Olympiads aim to identify, celebrate, and nurture teaching talent and allow teachers to gauge their knowledge, skills, and teaching methods against a broader international standard. It provides an opportunity for them to understand where they stand in terms of pedagogical knowledge and teaching effectiveness.

Portfolio assessment: Portfolios that include lesson plans, student assessments, feedback forms, and so on can be a powerful tool that offers a reflective space and tangible record of the professional journey. By collecting, analysing, and showcasing critical pieces of their work, teachers can gain a deeper understanding of their practices, chart their growth, and provide evidence of their competence.

Rubrics and checklists: Digital platforms can offer interactive rubrics and checklists that allow teachers to evaluate their performance against a set standard and even track changes over time. For teachers, a self-assessment rubric might detail various aspects of teaching practice and provide descriptors for different competency levels in each area. Similarly, a self-assessment checklist could enumerate key teaching behaviours, methodologies, or preparations, allowing them to confirm if they are incorporating these into their practices. The PINDICS and TSAR (Teacher Self-Assessment Rubrics) developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an example.

How to improve

The goal of self-assessment is to understand one's current practices and identify areas where growth can occur. Embracing a growth mindset and being open to change and development is central to the process. The following practices can help in this regard.

Reflection: At the end of a lesson, day, or week, teachers should spend a few moments reflecting on what went well and what could have been done differently. Over time, this can offer powerful insights.

Peer observation: Inviting a peer to observe a lesson and provide feedback can be an excellent way to see one's practices from another perspective. In return, observing other teachers can also provide new ideas and strategies to incorporate into one's own classroom.

Joining a teacher community: This can offer myriad improvement opportunities to share best practices, lesson plans, and teaching strategies and learn from one another.

Mentorship: Mentors often share valuable resources including plans, teaching materials, and tools that have worked for them. Regular observation and feedback from a trusted mentor can highlight strengths and areas of growth.

Embracing self-assessment is a journey, not a destination. The education landscape is constantly changing, and teachers who commit to regularly examining their methods are better positioned to adapt and thrive. While it is true that "Knowledge is power", today, self-awareness combined with knowledge is the beacon that can guide teachers in reaching their true potential.

The writer is the Founder of Suraasa.

SCHOLARSHIPS

NSP Pre-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities
An initiative the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability, Government of India.
Eligibility: A regular, full-time student of Class 9 or 10 in a recognised school (Central or State); more than 40% disability certified by a competent authority. Annual family income should be less than ₹250,000 from all sources.
Rewards: Maintenance allowance and other benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/PMSS1

BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship
An initiative by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) to help underprivileged students pursue their higher education.
Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals in Delhi who are in the final-year of their UG programme (any stream) in a government institute in Delhi and have secured more than 55% marks in their last exam. Annual family income must be less than ₹600,000 from all sources.
Rewards: Up to ₹30,000
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/BYPL4

SBIF Asha Scholarship Programme for School Students
SBI Foundation aims to help meritorious students from low-income families continue their education
Eligibility: Open to Indian students from Classes 6 to 12 who have scored minimum 75% in the previous academic year. Annual family income must be less than ₹300,000 from all sources.
Rewards: ₹ 10,000 for one year
Application: Online
Deadline: November 30
www.b4s.in/edge/SBIFS6

Courtesy: buddy4study.com